

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

PETER A. BRANNON, *Editor*

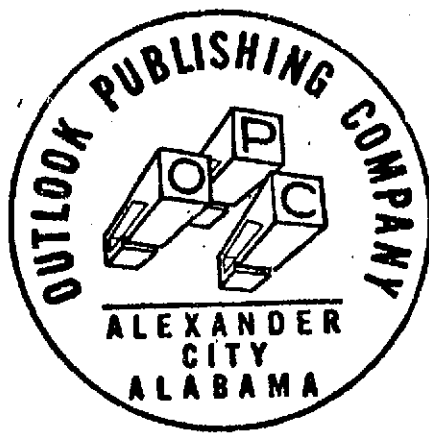


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EDITORIAL

This number of the *Quarterly* is intended to be of general interest as the contents will evidence.

Anticipating the Civil War Centennial celebrations in Alabama the numbers of the *Quarterly* following February, 1961, will be devoted primarily to Confederate material.

JAMES M. TORBERT'S JOURNAL FOR 1857-1874*

1857

JANUARY

- Thursday 1 Rain Working at the Mill, Covering & Cleaning up about the Mill Father and myself has a Considerable Jower tonight I will go to the planatation tomorrow—I moved Summerford to the Mill today—
I don't feel well
- Friday 2 Rain I went to the plantation today Oh my Conscience at the Mud—Bill Moon was repairing plow Stocks Some getting bourds. Halling up logs to build hen house, Knocking Cotton Stalks the new-ground is ready for the plow I Saw Mary baby today for the first time, bad luck with My pigs one Sow lost her pigs and another only two.
Alls Well
- Sat 3 Clear I went to the plantation yesterday getting boards halling henhouse logs—&KnocKing down Cotton Stalks. The plantation is a perfect Mire Working at the Mill finish Covering
Alls Well
- Sun 4 Clear and Cold I walked down to Jonathan Thomas Staid at home all the evening
Alls Well
- Mon 5 Cloudy Working at the Mill—I hired out Thomas Jack for \$150 to Lazenby Johnathan drunk all day, and went home and put his horse to the buggy and left his family—I hope he May never return I went over to Gassaways Mill in the evening to See how to frame cars
Alls Well
- Tues 6 Clear and Cold Work at the Mill
Alls Well

* An installment of Mr. Torbert's journal was published in Volume 18, No. 2, of the *Quarterly*. This concludes the journal.

1857

JANUARY

Wed 7 Cloudy & Sleeted a little Charlie and Myself went to Columbus to See about our Machinery, they promised to let us have it next week

Alls Well

Tur. 8 Cloudy and Cold I returned from Columbus. I bought me a Sett of platting instruments
 Doctor Doctor and family Commenced to bourd with me to day at 350
 Wilburn Dollars for the year

Alls Well

Friday 9 Cloudy and Cold Getting timbers for the grist Mill—I paid for Sarah Thomas Meet, Buck Myhands paid his note to day

Alls Well

Sat 10 Cloudy and Cold, Working at the Mill, Made the Cars and getting timbers for the Car track

Spencer Say they Sowed oats at the plantation this week Bourders Commenced this week Doctor Wilburn is to bourd himself & family at 350 Dollars pr year Eugene Smith at \$7 pr Month and the other when he Commences at \$10 pr month

Alls Well

Sun 11 Clear and Cold. I Staid at home all day Nothing new. Alls well Oh how verry Cold.

Mon 12 Clear & Cold Working at the Mill We are going to Start tomorrow after our Machenry Oh how verry Cold This is My birth day (35) to day

Alls Well

Tues 13 th Clear and Cold To day we Start to Columbus after our Machenry for the Steam Mill

Alls Well

Wed 14 Clear and verry Cold In Columbus to day I Sold My last three bales of Cotton 12c for one bale &

1857

JANUARY

11¼ for two—Camped in Columbus I bought My Groceries Coffee & Sugar is verry high—Coffee 14c Sugar the Same

Alls Well

Thur 15 Clear and Cold Loaded our wagons with boiler fly wheel Engine—and Some other things Fathers Lee's & phonnys Waggon helped John & Myself hall out

Alls Well

Friday 16 Clear and extremely Cold
We Come home to day with our Machinry no bad luck All Safe So far we have Not got to the Mill we are Standing in the road with the things tomorrow we will try to get to Mill

Alls Well

Sat 17 Oh how Cold We unloaded our Machney Ingrams Waggon brought a load I paid him part for Halling pay the ballence when I weigh his load

I am not well

Sun 18 Cold & Windy the Coldest day I think I ever Saw. Thermometer Stands at 9 to day Staid in the house all day I have a bad Cold

Mon 19 Cold My Concence I worked a little at the Mill, too Cold did not go to Columbus every thing frozed up I am quite Sick oh Such a Sore throat. I have the Croup good fashion and Sick

Tues 20 Cloudy and Cold, I am quite Sick Soar throat and Cough— I laid of a little work at the Mill— Waggon gone to Columbus to bring the ballince of Machinery My Concience how Soar My throat is I am afraid I will have a bad time with it before it gets well

Cloudy and Cold

Wed 21 My throat is verry Soar— I am laying off the frame of the grist Mill— I don't think I ever Saw a harder Spell of weather tis extremely Cold

1857

JANUARY

- Thur 22 Clear Windy and verry Cold Still at Work at the Mill— My throat is improveing a little— I aid Jonathan White tuition for Charlie & for John Thomas
The waggons got from Columbus just at night one of My waggon Wheels broke down at Dickersons
- Friday 23 Clody & verry Cold. at work at the Mill Jennings Come this evening to put up our Machinery and put it to work Oh how Cold My cough and Cold is almost as bad as it Can be
- Sat 24 This morning we have a white world, last night it Snowed every thing is Covered in Snow it was all melted by twelve Oclock My Cough & Cold is worse again to day Jennings is putting up things Jake Come to me about dark badly bruised up Moon and him had fallen out, this will not do he can whip him if he wishes when he does wrong but to beat them up with Sticks and his fist Must not be
- Sun 25 Clear and more pleasant I Staid at home all day, I Wrote a letter for old Man Harwell to be appointed Post Master at this place I think My Cough is improving a little nearly all the family have a bad Cold Cloudy in the evening.
- Mon 26 Clear and pleasant Putting up the Machinery at the Mill— put the boiler to its place My Cough is getting better
- Tues 27 Clear & pleasant Work at the Mill arranging the Machinery— We put the engine to its place to day
I am nearly well
- Wed 28 Rain To day it rained a verry pretty Shower. We are at work at the Mill and unless Jennings improves I don't think we will get done at all do and undo is about all we do
I have not been to the plantation but once Since Christmas I don't Know what they are doing I will go down Some of these days Alls Well

Thur 29 Cloudy and little rain Putting up the Machinery at the Mill

Alls well

Fri 30 Rain To day it rained in abundance doing what we can at the Mill J A R gone to Columbus after Some of the Machinery

Alls Well

Sat 31 Clear & Cool at Work putting up our get
Stock truck we on awfully Slow

Alls Well

FEBRUARY

Sun 1 Clear and pleasant. Motley preached at the baptist Church, Greathouse did not Come Martha Grunting Sent for Doctor Foote at three oclock 'She had a baby a little after one oclock at night Child born dead bad egg I am Sorry but I Cant help it Bayne

the brick layer come to help Simmon^s negroes put up the boiler

Alls Well

Mon 2 Clear at work at the Mill, Pleasant weather. We are putting up the boiler, Mr. Bayne the brick layer is Staying with Me

Alls well

Tues 3 Martha is doing pretty well, buried the *lost* child
Clear and pleasant Work at the Mill. I am going to the plantation tomorrow.

Alls well

Wed 4 Clear and pleasant. To day I went to the plantation, Some cleaning up the last thirty acres of land, all ready for the plow but the last years newground all the Stubble broke Commenced to day to Listing Cotton

1857

FEBRUARY

ground Moon is doing pretty well So far if he will
Continue So

Alls well

Thur

5 Clear To day I go to Columbus to get the last of
our Machinery I Camped with the waggon

Alls Well

Friday

6 Clear. I Staid in Columbus all day Waiting for the
Chimney Mr. Walker & Mr. Ranson Camped with
me in Columbus

Alls Well

Sat

7 Cloudy I Come from Columbus to day brought the
s
last of our Mill fixing got home with Much trouble,
I paid father 90 Dollars on Jonathan Thomas act—
I have his receipt No 25

Alls Well

I bought yesterday My new ink Stand I am much
pleased with it

Sun

8 Cloudy and rained last night & a little this Morning
Staid at home all day nothing new, Alls Well

Clear and Cold in the evening

Mon

9 Clear and Cold We put up our Chimney at the Mill
to day— Nothing new— one of Greathouse children
buried at the Hill today

Alls Well

Tues

10 Clear and pleasant at work at the Mill I think we
will Saw Some in one more week if alls wright

Alls well

Wed

11 Clear and verry Cold We are still fixing the Mill
raised Steam to day and exercised the engine a little
& pumped water in the Cistern—I think we will Saw
Some next Week.

Alls well

1857

FEBRUARY

Tur 12 Cloudy and warm— At work at the Mill—Have not Sawed yet—I bought a mule to day from Alexander Paid \$ 145 verry high price but the best I could do—I thought I woud go to the plantation this week but I am oblige to Stay at the Mill So I Must trust to Providence

Alls well

Frid 13 Clear Still at work at the Mill I have not been to the plantation this week

Alls well

Sat 14 Clear & warm at work at the Mill put down the log carriage today tis not exactly wright I See no reason why we will get to Sawing next week

Alls Well

Sun 15 Clear & pleasant I Staid at home all day Lee & Molley Came in the evening alls Well

Mon 16 Clear and Warm We got ready to Start the Saws and found out the cluch on the feed wheel was wrong we will have to Send to Columbus and get another wheel before we can Saw Don't we have the worst luck iminageble

Alls well

Tues 17 Clear and warm, Did not Saw any today Went to party at Foots at night

Alls well

Wed 18 Clear and pleasant Started the Saw today did not Saw Much plank that was any account training the Saw I think we have got it So it will Cut right at least a while

Clem is not well I am afraid he is going to take the wlux, he has had one bloody operation

Thur 19 Clear and Warm— Mill broke Engine frame broke after we got every thing ready wedge worked out and

1857

FEBRUARY

the Crank broke of the engine frame Janney goes to Columbus to See if it Can be mended

Alls Well.

Fri 20 Clear and windy, I went to the plantation breaking up corn gound in the Creek field Moon has broke up his Stubble Listed up all his Cotton ground but fifteen acres and will get done breaking his corn land by next wednesday— broke the newground all the plantation is cleaned up except a few chunks about and they are burning them. My young mule plows finely Clouded up in the evening

Alls Well

Sat 21 Clear I Staid at Home all day I am doing nothing while the Mill is broke down

Alls well

Sun 22 Clear & pleasant Staid at Home all day Mrs. Walker^s & Miss Eliza Wynn come to Spend a few day

Alls well

Mon 23 Clear & pleasant I bedded potatoes at the Hill to day attended to Pate & Aaron at work in the garden. Waggon returned from Columbus with the iron to Repair the broken engine

Alls Well

Tues 24 Cloudy and warm Fixing the broken engine we will^s be ready to Saw again in a few day Moon brought up Some plow stock timber, took 19 bushels Potatoes to the plantation to bed. The people around are planting Corn Considerably— Mrs. Walker & Eliza Wynn has gone home today We have had a beautiful Spell of weather— I think from the looks of the weather^s we will have rain in a few day

Alls Well

1857

FEBRUARY

Wed 25 Cloudy and thunder and a little rain at night Commenced Sawing again today I hope we will have better luck in the future

Alls Well

Thur 26 Clear We Sawed to day the engine does not do well— She has play and jumps and jerks too Much the Saw is not running exactly right I expect they are planting Corn at the plantation or will Commence tomorrow I am So closely Confined at the Mill I have no time to go to the plantation Bet has got a bad bile under her arm

Fri 27 Clear and warm We Sawed Some today things are not all right yet, though it will "Sorter" do, I paid Alexander to day for the Mule I bought from him. I gave father an order on Hall Mosses & Co for two hundred and Sixty dollars to pay for 2 mule he bought of Alexander, Wilburn lectured at the Academy on History at night

's

Bet bile is bad yet

Sat 28 Clear in the Morning Shower about one Oclock Sawed Some today Saw is not doing right, Saw heats in Cutting two lines, I don't know what is the Matter Janney left for home today I told him I was not Satisfied untill I tried it longer— Say two weeks the engine is doing better

Spencer tells me Moon Commenced to plant Corn Thursday evening got between 30 & 40 acres planted I heard to day Hendrick got killed in a duel by Rimbro

Alls well

1857

MARCH

Sun 1 Clear and Windy Greathouse preached to day I heard him— I Sent for Dave to Come to run our Mill— Cooler Some frost this Morning and I think from the

1857

MARCH

s

Sign of the times we will have ice tomorrow Morning

Bets Bile is Still bad

I Sent Martha to the plantation today four weeks to day Since She lost her baby

Mon

- 2 Clear Windy and Cold Ice & freezing nearly all day
We Sawed nearly all day, Saw is not right yet I think
we will get Strait after awhile I want to go to the
plantation in a day or So Bets bile is verry bad yet

Tues

- 3 Cloudy and verry Cold, Ice every thing Killed in the
garden the young leaves and buds Killed I am affraid
the fruit is all Killed Saw doing bad untill dinner
Sawed finely after dinner Planting Corn at the planta-
tion— Green breaking up my patches at the Hill,
Fanny sow had pigs—

Bets bile bad yet

Wed

- 4 Cloudy & Thunder Sawed finely all day after we
Sawed a Cart tongue Planted My last Irish potatoes—
I paid a note for A W G T to Russell for 140 Dollars
Planting Corn at the plantation

Bets bile a little better:

Thur

- 5 Rain to day and rained last night too wet to plow we
Sawed to day all day, Willis Come up after the
waggon & got Some plank to curb the well

Alls Well

Fri

- 6 Cloudy and Cold Windy I went to the Plantation
to day, fixed a new Kirb in the pump well and fixed
the pump All the old ground planted but 5 acres in
Corn Alls Well

Sat

- 7 Clear & Cold Sawed at the Mill had to Stop before
night hot water pump got out of order Bets bile is
worse and I think now it is a Carbunkle.

Sun

- 8 Clear Motley preached at the Methodist Church I
did not go Bat Ingram paid me to day for Sallie's
board

1857

MARCH

Bet Complains with the Carbunkle under her arm
tis a bad place

Mon

- 9 Rain It has rained nearly all day a light rain, Sawing
at the Mill Spencer work at the grave yard Bets bile
is worse again

Tues

- 10 Cloudy Sawing to day we do not Saw More than
half our time. Saw Cutting rong this evening. Some
packing blew out this Morning Sawed 3516 feet today
2196 feet yesterday

Spencer planted My Corn patch at the Hill today
Bet has a dreadfull bad arm I am affraid She will
Suffer a great deal with it before She gets well I
don't feel well Myself

Wed

- 11 Rain It has rained nearly all day We have Sawed
to day we Can't keep the Saw in fix we don't Saw
much more than half the time Sawed between 30 &
3500 feet today Bets arm is Still verry bad I do not
Know what they are doing at the plantation. Tis
verry Cold Ice plenty of Mornings

Going to Send tomorrow to Columbus for our Mill
yearing

Thur

- 12 Cloudy Windy and Cold Piled lumber untill eleven
Oclock Sawed 2700 ft plank the ballence of the
day John A R gone to Columbus with Willis after
the Grist Irons

Bets arm worse to day tis a bad place

Fri

- 13 Rain nearly all day and Cold Sawed pretty good day
Sawing

Bets arm is getting worse tis a horrid place—

Jonathan Thomas got his Kitchen burnt last night,
I give him five dollars to bear his expenses to Columbus
to get More things

Sat

- 14 Cloudy and Cold I sawed over 3000 thouSand
feet of lumber today and a little over twenty thousand

1857

MARCH

ft this week. We got our grist Irons today J A R returned from t own to day— he Settled up for our Machinery give our note for a little over eleven hundred Dollars and we owe at Hall Mosses & Co Something over three hundred besides the note

Bets bile is Still verry bad

Sun 15 Clear and Cold Staid at home all day J A R & family Spent the day with us Bets bile is bad yet.

Mon 16 Cloudy and Cold Sawed only one Stock today pack- ing blew out of the Steam pipe A S a Edward Com- mence working on the grist Mill frame, Bets bile bad

Tues 17 Clear Worked at the Mill Sawed & worked on the grist frame nothing new

Bets bile getting better

Wed 18 Rained It has drizzle nearly all day I went to Tus- kegee to day to Correct the double tax of my land Mr. Biddle and his wife Came down to See Mr. & Mrs. Wilburn Ben Gardner told me who his affianced was, he is a Strange being—& Strang tast

Bets is Still improveing

Thur 19 Clear & Cold All hands at work on the grist frame We Sawed a little in the eveng to accomodate the ladies

Bets bile is improvving

Fri 20 Clear & Pleasant, I went to the plantation to day they are bedding up Cotton ground and ditching the ground is pretty wet Moon is doing pretty well I reckon about as well as any one would do under the Circumstances

Alls Well

Sat 21 Clear & warm I Worked at the Mill we will raise Monday

Alls well

Sun 22 Clear Alls well Walked down to J A R in the evening nothing new

1857

MARCH

Mon 23 Clear and warm raised the grist frame today did not quite get done I had the head ache verry bad today

Tues 24 Clear and warm Finished raising the grist frame Moon Sent me word to day he did not think the Corn would Come up Collins Come out from Columbus to fix our engine but he failed to do So

Alls Well

Wed 25 Clear and warm We Cleaned up round the Mill part of the day & Sawed Some old man Summerford Commenced Covering the grist Mill Nothing new

Alls Well

Thur 26 Clear Sawed untill dinner went to the Show after dinner

Nothing new alls well

Fri 27 Rain to day we had a pretty little Shower I went to the plantation, bedding up Cotton ground I will have to plant My Corn over and I Commence a gain tomorrow to finish planting over.

Alls Well

Sat 28 Cloudy Sawed to day Moon planting Corn over

Alls Well

Sun 29 Clear and Cold Staid about home all the forenoon walked over to the mill in the evening Alls well

Mon 30 Clear Sawed in the Morning went to the plantation in the evening I will have to plant all my Corn over we are planting over and ditching Alls well

Tues 31 Clear Sawed all day, old man Summerford is at work on the grist Mill Alls well

tomorrow is the first day of April

APRIL

Wed 1 Cloudy Sawed at the mill. Moon finished planting his

1857

APRIL

corn over to day the Mill is doing pretty well

Alls Well

Thur 2 Cloudy and Cold Rained last night and Some today
Sawing at the Mill got the Mill house enclosed

Alls Well

Fri 3 Clear and Cold Frost I Sawed to day Moon is
planting Cotton Alls well

Sat 4 Clear and Cool Sawed blew the water out of
the boiler, for the purpose of washing out. Jim Ligon
Sent to me an execution for Cost he is a damed
Scoundrel

Alls well

Sun 5 Clear Went to Preaching Great house preached one
of his long winded Sermons tis the last I hear him
preach

Alls well

Mon 6 Cloudy Rained and Sleeted last night and Cold all
day I am affraid the wheat will all be killed

Alls well

Tus 7 Clear & Cold Frost Sawing at the Mill & planting
Cotton at the plantation

Alls well

Wed 8 Clear & Cold Frost Sawing & planting Cotton alls
well

Thur 9 Rain I went to the plantation after dinner planting
Cotton Verry Cold nearly Cold enough to Snow
Bet & Mrs. Wilburn Spent the day at L L T Scela
has a bone felon on her finger I am affraid the
wheat is Seriously injured

Frid 10 Cold Frost & ice plenty. Went to Tuskegee today to
attend to the Claim Cace of Sarah Thomas Cace

1857

APRIL

did not Come up got to go back next week Hilliard
has turned democrat

Alls well

Sat

- 11 Clear and Cold Working at the Mill Sawed today
I am quite unwell bad Cold broke pump Iron late
in the eveing Celia Come up from the plantation
with her Sore finger I will have to have it Cut tis a
bad looking place

Sun

- 12 Cloudy Sprinkled rained I Staid at home all day and
read and Slept

s

Alls well but Celia finger

Mon

- 13 Clear and Cold Sawed part of to day after mending
the pump Iron I whetting & Circuling the Saw

Alls well

Tues

- 14 Clear Windy and Cold Sawed to d ay Henry got
his eye hurt badly to day I attended to the engine
& John Sawed after Henry got his eye hurt

Alls well

Wed

- 15 Clear and Cold Frost Tis Cold enough for Middle
winter,the wheat is ruined I Shall pasture My patch
at the Hill down Sawing at the Mill I will go to
the plantation in a day or So and See how things
are getting on there

Alls well

Thurs

- 16 Clear and Cold Wen't to Tuskegee to day did not
reach the Cace I had in Court every thing looks
gloomy Cold Cold

Fri

- 17 Clear & turned a little warm in the evening I went
to the plantation My Corn has just Commenced Come-
ing up & the birds are pulling it up Finished planting
Cotton today & will finished planting newground Corn
tomorrow— My wheat is Seriously injured at the planta-
tion

Alls Well

1857

APRIL

Sat

18 Clear and more pleasant I Sawed untill dinner & cleaned up about the Mill in the evening Clouded up and rained a little in the evening I have finished

s

planting My Crop Alls well except Celia finger that is a bad place

Sun

19 Cloudy and Rain Turned Cool in the evening I Staid at home all day, Sabbath School Pick nic at Ingrams Mill yesterday the upper ten all there. Phil Walker eat Supper with us last night and Staid untill bed time

s

Alls well except Celia finger that is verry bad
We will have more frost in the Morning

Mon

20 Clear and Cold Frost. Sawed to day the Saw runs badly Brooks did not Come according to promise to Start our grist

Alls well

Tues

21 Clear and Cold Sawed part of the day Caught up with the Cart halling Stocks

Alls well

Wed

22 Clear and Cold Sawed up with the Cart again Made door for the grist Mill Sent old Man Summerford to

See if Brook s intended to Come

Thurs

23 Clear and Cold frost. What are we to do? is it going

s

to be frosting alway Brooks Come to day but would not Say whether he would put up our grist or not We have not Sawed any today, Can't Keep in Stocks Made & hung the doors and window Shutters to the grist Mill I hope we will get it Started some of these day

s

s

Alls well but Celia finger that looks bad

Fri

24 Clear and Cool Sawed today Saw is not doing well

Alls well

1857

APRIL

Sat 25 Cloudy and rain Sawed to day Saw is doing bad She
heats near the teeth. I am affraid She is Kinked Moon
Commenced today to work Corn

Alls well Bet has gone to See her Mother

Sun 26 Rain in the evening— Bet come home I Staid home
all day except what time I walk down to the Church
to hear Wilburn licture

Alls Well

Mon 27 Clear and More pleasant I sawed to day Saw is not
doing well, tho I Made a big Day^s Sawing Sent
after Smoot to Start our grist Mill

Alls well

Tues 28 Clear I Sawed a little this morning untill Smoot
Came to work on the grist then we all Stoped to help
him

Alls well

Wed 29 Clear . . All hand at work to Start the grist fathers
overseer Shot Jordan— Alls well

Thur 30 Clear and Windy at work on the grist we will grind
next week if nothing happens— Alls well

April is gone and the winter is not left the leaves are
not as large as I have Seen them the Middle of March

s

It has frost all April untill the last few day

Moon has Just Commenced plowing Corn/

1857

MAY

Fri 1 Rain It rained last night a good Season I worked on
the Mill hoop to day I think we will be able to grind
Some time next week

Alls well

Sat 2 Rain a little we are at work on the grist Moon is

1857

MAY

working Corn. too wet to plow Father gave \$1000 Dollars to each of his Children Lee and Mollie Staid with us to night

Alls well

Sun

3 Rain; I Staid at home all day no preaching too much rain

Alls well

Mon

4 Rain It rained all day and last night it rained all night. worked on the Mill

Alls well

Tueay

5 Clear and pleasant Work on the grist Sawing today
Sent to Phonny^s after a load of Shucks too wet to plow

Alls Well

Wed

6 Rain We Sawed Some today and ground a little
to try the Stones,tomorrow Smoot Say^s all will be right

Alls well

Thur

7 Clear and pleasant. Sawed and tried to grind not exactly right I don't Know what Moon is doing at the plantation as Soon as we get the grist to running I will go and See

Fri

8 Clear we ground Some meal to day don't Make as good meal as I wish heats too bad

Alls Well

Sat

9 Clear and pleasant We ground and Sawed all is right at last our Mill is now ready for business

Alls well but Celia finger it is bad yet and we need her work

Sun

10 Clear and Pleasant Staid at home all day

Alls Well

Mon

11 Clear and warm planted out potatoe Slips in the

1857

MAY

Morning went to the plantation after dinner, Chopping & barring Cotton I don't think I have More than half Stand of Cotton and grass plenty

Alls Well

Tues

12 Clear and warm We have ground one load of Corn for T. B. Howard and Sawed the ballence of the day

I am uneasy about my Stand of Cotton

Alls Well

Wed

13 Clear and warm Sawing and grinding we have Some pretty weather, now I keep So Clost at the mill I don't get much new

Alls Well

Thur

14 Clear Warm Sawed & ground nothing new only the dance at Daneils night before last

Alls Well

Fri

15 Rain To day we have had rain enough to Make a crop to day and last night

Alls Well

Sat

16 Oh the Rain It has rained enough to day to Make a crop. We ground all day our Mill grinds Miserably Slow

Alls Well

Sun

17 Cloudy all day and rain at night the whole world is in a float of rain and water, we cannot plow and have not plowed in Several day There is Considerable excitment in town about a Synonomous letter addressed to Thom Floranoy, I May be mistaken but I believe it lies between J E Daniel & Jim Harwell

Alls Well

Mon

18 Clear. Sent to Auburn to day after Some bacon

- Sawed part of the day picked the Mill & Ground
 's
 father Corn
 Alls Well
- Tues 19 Clear & Cool Come near frosting I & Willis Wen't
 to Columbus today
 Alls Well
- Wed 20 Clear and almost Frost I am in Columbus all day
 bought My Summer goods paid for My gin & C
 Alls Well
- Thur 21 Clear & Cool Returned from Columbus
 I am going to the plantation tomorrow to See the
 plantation
 Alls Well
- Fri 22 Clear & warm after the Morning I went to the
 plantation today Chopping Cotton & plowing Corn
 poor Stand of Cotton & bud worms Killing Corn &
 Grass plenty
 Alls Well
- Sat 23 Clear At the Mill all day John Sawing Engine is
 running badly Gumed the Saw to day and hard
 job to day it was Prospects are bad for a Crop &
 times are distressingly hard provision high bacon is
 worth 16 cents & Corn \$125 pr Bushel
 Alls Well
- Sun 24 Clear Staid at home all day Bet wen't to J A R in
 the evening Nothing new. Mrs. Wilburn did not get
 back this evening as expected Some Scamp pulled of
 Some pailings and went in the garden last night and
 pull up Several bunches Shallots
 Alls Well
- Mon 25 Clear and warm Worked on the engine nearly all
 day tis bardly out of fix and I cant fix it Mrs. Wil-
 burn returned to day
 Alls Well

- Tues 26 Clear & Warm Ground a little at the Mill in the Morning & Sawed the ballinc of the day
Alls Well
- Wed 27 Clear & Cool Sawing & grinding
Alls Well
- Thur 28 Clear and Pleasant Sawed half the day Caught up with the Stock Cart piled lumber and arranged lumber yard in the evening
Alls Well
- Fri 29 Clear & Warm Not Sawing we are doing what
s
grinding Come, & fixing about the Mill Sent Pate & Brad from the Mill
Alls Well
- Sat 30 Clear & Warm At Work at the Mill
Alls Well
- Sun 31 Rain today a beautiful shower. I Staid at home all day only what time I Staid at Sabbath School
I do not feel well
- 1857 JUNE
- Mon 1 Cloudy and rain in the evening I went to the plantation in the Morning finished Sweeping Cotton ahead of the plows and Sixty five acres Swept behind the hoes Cotton & Corn looks verry Sorry and
- Mon 1 plenty of grass though if it does not rain too Much they will Make out to Manage it, The Newground Corn is verry Sorry and looks bad Their is the poorest prospects for a Crop I ever Saw Corn will not average Nee high Cotton flat on the ground
Alls Well
- Tues 2 Clear and warm today I Staid about home and pid-

dled I was at the Mill twice working on the engine

Alls Well

Wed

- 3 Clear & warm I Staid at home all day. Berry work-
s
ing on the engine at the Mill Harkins Say we Can-
not grind fine enough for him Sent Brad to Auburn
after the ballence of our Bacon

Alls Well

Thur

- 4 Clear & Warm

I went to the plantation Chopping Cotton the
first time Plowing newground Corn Prospect for a
Crop is poor I went to the pond after dinner to try
to Kill Some fish (failed)

Alls Well

Fri

- 5 Clear & warm Went fishing at the Mill pond did
not catch any thing plenty fish but they won't bite
Played draft with Kendred in the evening he beat
me badly

Alls Well

Sat

- 6 Clear I staid at the Mill all day grinding Sawed
I log in the evening

Alls Well

Sun

- 7 Clear and warm. Preaching Johnson Preached negro
preaching in the evening

Alls Well

Mon

- 8 Clear & hot We are Not Sawing this week dress
the Mill rocks and ground a little in the evening

Alls Well

Tues

- 9 Clear & Hot Not doing Much at the Mill Sawing
a bill when it Comes in and doing the grinding

Alls Well

Wed

- 10 Clear and verry Hot Scarcely any grindg Comes in

1857

JUNE

at work on our office Sent all hands from the Mill but Summerford & Henry I do not Know how they are getting on at the plantation

Alls Well

Thur 11 Clear and Warm Stayed at the Mill doing but little Summerford & Henry digging well Aaron working out my patches at the Hill The Comet is looked for tomorrow

Alls Well

Fri 12 Clear I went to the plantation to day Plowing Corn the third time My Corn is verry Small and pretty grassy My Cotton Crops is verry poor and 'tis dieing and lice in abundance Hoeing the new ground Corn The Comet did not Come to day as predicted

Alls Well

Sat 13 Clear Staid at the Mill all day We had right Smart grinding today

Alls Well

Sun 14 Clear and verry warm Went to Sabbath School in the Morning and to Methodist Church Wilburn his wife & Myself went in the carriage

Alls Well

Mon 15 Clear Thunder Clouds going about, Mended up My Buggy Harness, Brad got hooked by one of the oxens at the Mill I went to the plantation in the evening Hoeing & plowing Corn

Alls Well

Tues 16 Clear. & verry warm Sawed untill dinner Sawing gin gear for father & Ben Miller Jim Stewart & Sam Brazil whiped the old German. Buried McNickols late this evening

Alls Well

Wed 17 Rain to day we had a hard Shower but not a good Season, I rode down to J A R in the evening to She

1857

JUNE

the Sick all improving

Alls Well

Thur

18 Clear & Hot I killed a beef this Morning bull goared an Ox and I had to Kill him in Self defence, Paid for the last of our Machinery-Cutting My wheat at the Hill; Worked my watermelon patch at the Hill

Alls Well

Friday

19 Clear Finished Cutting my wheat at the Hill walked over to the Mill in the Morning Wilburn & White gone to Tuskegee drove Jerry they are Still dieing over in Darlington

Alls Well

Sat

20 Clear and warm I am doing nothing of importance today Staid at the Mill all the Morning Staid about the Store in the evening danceing School Com-menced I played the violin after School for the girls

s

and boys to dance All well at home Miss Mat Harwell is quite sick

Sun

21 Clear & warm Went to Sabbath School Staid at home ballence of the day Bill Moon & his wife Come up in the evening

Alls Well

Mon

22 Clear & Hot Pecked all day on the Mill rock nothing new, yes Rachael had a babie to day

alls well

Tues

23 Cloudy Finished pecking the rock and ground the ballence of the day—large Circle around the Sun

s

today Concert at Brunson at night

Alls Well

Wed

24 Rain I Staid at the Mill untill dinner went to the plantation in the evening Hoeing & plowing Cotton

not much grass and a poor Stand of Cotton. Corn is growing Since I plowed it—the best oats I ever Saw grow. Commenced Cutting oats, rained and Stoped us Had a fine rain at the Hill but a light Shower at the plantation

Alls Well

Thur 25 Cloudy Bedding up and planting My potatoes at the Hill, I Staid at the Mill, Making Rachael a cradle ground 15 bushels Corn

Nothing New

Alls Well

Fri 26 Clear and verry hot Staid at the Mill all day we get a little grinding, I finished planting My potatoes at the Hill Sent My Crop of wheat from the Hill to the thrash I got 8½ Bushels poor Crop for two acres

Alls Well

Sat 27 Rained a verry light Shower. Staid at the Mill grinding part of the day Mill gearing not doing well Henry gone to his wifes house—

Alls Well

Sun 28 Cloudy I Staid at home all day and took Several good naps tomorrow is the examination There was but few Come to Make the arbor yesterday Doctor Foote did not Send

Alls Well

Mon 29 Clear Worked at the Mill untill dinner went to the examinations, Tis getting dry

Alls Well

Tues 30 Clear at the examination today, All passed of quietly only Sam Brazile broke Miss Eves piano We had a
s
bucket dinner a great Many person

Alls Well

Mr Budell and daughter was down Mr. Smith & Daughter was also here We had quite a pleasant Time of it.

1857

JULY

Wed

1 Clear and windy The wind has been blowing pretty
s

Constant for three days, to night their is to be a dance at the old lodge room. Mrs. Walker and Eliza Come up yesterday

Alls Well

Thur

2 Clear and windy I was at the plantation today My Crop has no grass but 'tis Suffering for rain—My corn has not grown any Since it was plowed, Com-menced plowing Newground Corn today I went to the dance last night quite a crowd

Alls Well

Fri

3 Cloudy and Sprinkled about a little, Cool for this time of year Crops are Suffering verry much for rain. Nothing New

Alls Well

Sat

4 Cloudy and a light Sprinkle of rain none to do any any good I Staid at the Mill all day Not a great deal of grinding

No dinners to be had in the Country as I hear of

Alls Well

Sun

5 Clear & dry I Staid at Home all day not well in the evening I have got a bile on my thigh

Mon

6 Clear & dry Staid at the Mill all day I am quite unwell

Tues

7 Clear & Dry I am Still Sick I Stay about the Mill

Wed

8 Clear & dry I rode down to the plantation in the Morning Halling up oats & hoeing Cotton too dry to plow My bile is worse

Thur

9 Clear I Staid at the mill—The Judge & Dowdell

1857

JULY

Spoke at Uchee to day I Should like to have gone but My bile is So bad I Could not go, I Staid at the Mill all day grinding Some and Selling a good deal of Meal at \$110 Cash

Frid 10 Clear & hot & dry I Staid at the Mill all day ground all day My bile is pretty bad Doctor Wilburn and his wife has gone to Ridge Grove.

Alls Well

Sat 11 Cloudy & warm Ground at the Mill all day I had to Stay at home & nurse my bile

Alls Well

Sun 12 Cloudy & Rain A fine rain at the Hill Not Much at the plantation Sterling died this Morning

Alls Well

Mon 13 Cloudy & a little rain Still no rain at the plantation I Cut a road from the Mill to the ford of the Creek Sterling was burried at the Hill today, Made Some pills for Phonny

Alls Well

Tues 14 Cloudy & rain at the Hill None at the plantation. I went down to the plantation in the evening—Sawed out Some lumber for Gassaway in the Morning Henry is Complaining with a gripeing & looseness I am affraid he is going to be Sick Crops look bad at the plantation I am plowing My Corn the last time Hoeing my Newground Corn

Alls Well

Wed 15 Clear Thunder about and Some rain in the neighbourhood, Bet Spent the day at Mr Ingrams. Oh I wish it would rain at the plantation. Grinding at the Mill I Staid at the mill all the Morning

Alls Well

Thur 16 Clear & hot Went Cow hunting in the Morning. Went to Columbus in the evening to get the Mill

1857

JULY

gearing Cast. we broke one wheel Doctor Wilburn
went with Me

Alls Well

Fri 17 Clear & Warm I am in Columbus Northing new alls
well

Sat 18 Clear & Hot I returned from Columbus alls well

Sun 19 Clear & Hot Staid at Home, Alls Well

Nothing New

Mon 20 Clear & Hot Grinding at the Mill all Day

Alls Well

Tues 21 Clear Staid at the Mill all day. grinding pretty
Steady.

Alls Well

Wed 22 Clear & Hot Staid at the Mill all day ground
untill dinner but little after dinner, examination &
dinner in Harrisburg to day

Alls Well

Thur 23 Cloudy Last night I went to Lee' Bet & Myself the
Surprised, quite a jolly time of it danced all night
Come home next Morning. Nothing doing at the
Mill Makeing Clothes press

Alls Well

Fri 24 Rain Staid at the Mill all day

Alls Well

Sat 25 Rain I think we have had a Season at last Grind-
ing at the Mill

Alls Well

Sun 26 Cloudy Staid at Home all day had Singing in
Church in the Morning Company in the evening

Alls Well

1857

JULY

Mon 27 Cloudy and rain Oh how it rained to day I was at the plantation today dined at L.L.T. Crops are growing finely but Small Commenced Sawing to day

Alls Well

Tues 28 Cloudy Staid about home all day Killed beef Jake & Aaron Splitting wood

Alls Well

Wed 29 Cloudy Walked over to the Mill in the evening—Hunted My ox in the piney woods in the evening did not find him We have rain plenty for the present

Alls Well

Thur 30 Cloudy. Went fishing in the Morning with Father & Phonny Father Caught a Small trout. rode over fathers Piney woods Crop "Pretty good" verry warm

Alls Well

Fri 31 Cloudy and extremely warm. Bet & Myself rode down to the plantations this Morning I walked over My Crop it is Small but tis growing verry fast, in the evening oh how it rained, the heaviest rain we have had this Summer,

Alls well nothing new

1857

AUGUST

Sat 1 Cloudy & rain Staid at the Mill all day evry thing is in a float

Alls Well

Sun 2 Rain Oh how wet. No preacher at the baptist Church but John Motley

Alls Well

Mon 3 Rained in torrents, untill eleven oclock Henry our engineer is Missing this Morning he has ranaway I Suppose to day is our election day Judge & Dowdell

1857

AUGUST

are candidates for Congres Judge beet D at this box
18 votes I ground a little this Morning

Alls Well

Tues

4 Rain Cotton Crops will be badly injured by the
rains I ground and Sawed at the Mill today I Make
Pate run the engins

Alls Well

Wed

5 Rain. I Staid at the Mill to day-Sent to Echols Mill
with wheat I got only 27 pounds pr Bushel

Alls Well

Thur

6 Clear to day Grinding & Sawing Sold the last bit
of toll Corn Johnson Sent Henry home to day
Damed mean negro I have not whiped him yet but
I intend to give him the devil

Alls Well I understand Judge is beaten for Congress
I am Sorry for that

Alls Well

Fri

7 Rain had a good Shower to day every thing is verry
Sut

wet Grinding today Give Henry this Morning

The Mill is verry dull grind verry Slow

Alls Well

Sat

8 Rain Will it rain alway ? every thing is too wet
to work have not worked in the plantation in over
a week-Grinding & Sawing at the Mill

s

All Well

Sun

9 Rained a light Shower in the evening Preaching at
the Methodist Church I did not goe helped father
gather Some watermelons Staid at home all day I
do wish it would quit raining.

Alls well

1857

AUGUST

- Mon 10 Cloudy and rain in abundance evry thing will Certainly drown I went to the plantation plowing a little in the Morning getting out oats in the evening & Making baskets Eden is Sick a little
- Tues 11 Rain it Still rains worked on Clothes press a little today Staid at home all the evening Phil Walker was at my house Dowdell is elected by 76 votes
Nothing new alls well
- Wed 12 Clear No rain to day alls well I Staid about home and at the Mill all day Alls Well
- Thur 13 Clear & No rain today— Bad new this Morning Rachel Smothered her child last night— I went to the plantation today finished getting out oats got out 111 bushels getting timbers for a new crib Making baskets Buried Rachels Baby— Some picking up brush Adaline is a little Sick this Morning.
- Fri 14 Clear and extremely warm. Staid at Home all day Adaline Sick
- Sat 15 Clear and verry warm Worked My patches at the Hill Sowed turnips Oh how verry warm Went to the dance in the evening
Adaline Sick
- Sun 16 Clear and Hot Staid at home all day after I Came from Sabbath School Big dance last night, Rain last night Oh how hot
Adaline Sick
- Mon 17 Clear and extremely hot This is My week at the Mill ground all day. Adaline is quite Sick with typhoid fveer— I heard this evening that little Jim Ligon was verry Sick
- Tue 18 Clear & Hot Staid at the Mill all day Sawing Caught up with the Stock Cart Engine is out of fix Adaline is Still Sick and from all

- s
- appearances likely to Stay So Jasper Grigg's wife is dead Oh how hot.
- Wed 19 Clear & Cool I am quite unwell to day Staying at the Mill this week Adaline hay got the Typhoid fever.
- Thur 20 Clear & Cool I am Still Sick I am fearful from
- s
- My feeling I am going to be quite Sick The engine is out of fix at the Mill and we are getting on badly, Adaline Sick
- Fri 21 Clear I am Sick enough to be in bed but I am afraid to lie down for fear I will be Sick bad
- Adaline is no better
- Sat 22 Clear & pleasant I am quite Sick today Staid at the Mill untill dinner layed about home in the evening.
- Oh how bad I feel
- Sun 23 Clear I Staid at home all day I am quite Sick Lee Peacocks Child is verry low Adaline I think is a little better today Bill Moon was up to day he Says one or two of the negroes at the plantation is Sick.
- Mon 24 Clear I went to the plantation to day brought Eliza up She is Complaining Considerably Adaline is a
- s
- little better A am Something better—Lee Peacock Child dide today old Man Summerford & Myself Made the Coffin in the evening Bill Moon is to let Me Know by Wednesday Morning whether he will live with me the next year at 175 Dollars
- Tues 25 Clear & warm. This is My idle week I Staid about home all day. Buried Lee Peacocks child—, tried to get Eddies likeness but the Artist Could not take it I do not Know his business Adaline is improveing Eliza has Chills and fever

- Wed 26 Clear & hot Staid about home all day Adaline is getting better & Eliza is quite Sick
- Thur 27 Rain light Showers I went to the plantation, Cotton is doing nothing at all Nearly all Shedded off Pulling fodder I employed Moon for another year at 275 & his bread Sick improveing
s
- Fri- 28 Rain again today I went down to Phonney' today to give his negroes Some provisions he was
s
taken Sick at fathers yesterday— the rain is wetting My fodder
- Sat 29 Clear & pleasant Staid about the Hill all day, walked over to the Mill in the Morning varnished My clothes press. Went to the dance in the evening Nothing new
Alls nearly well
- Sun 30 Clear & pleasant— Went to Darlington to Church good Many at preaching Come back to dinner. Doctor Wilburn went in the buggy with Me
Alls well
- Mon 31 Cloudy and a little rain at night— Grinding at the Mill all day— I rode down to the plantation this Morning, Mary & Rachel Sick ballence taking up & Halling & Stacking fodder. Miss Eves Called to See if She Could get board She Says She is going to
s
quit Dave he is too bad when he is drunk

Alls Well at home

August is gone and with it our prospect for a Cotton Crop is also gone the wet spell in this Month has entirely ruined My Cotton Crop there is nothing left on the Stalk only what grown bolls were on the

s

Stalks before the rain Commenced, the leaves and forms and in Some places the Small bolls are drop-

ping off Corn & pea Crop is pretty good I have
 Saved all my old ground fodder with but little rain
 on it The mill is doing pretty good business we Saw
 s

and do what grinding Come in Sell meal at the
 Mill at \$110 Cash

1857

SEPTEMBER

Tus 1 Clear & pleasant. Dressing the Mill today grinding
 in the evening

Nothing new, all well

at home Some Sick at the plantation

Wed. 2 Rain Today it rained a light Shower Sawing &
 grinding at the Mill Mrs. Walker Come up today

Alls well

Thur 3 Clear & Pleasant. Sawing today but little grinding—
 No rain yet I know my Cotton is Completely ruined,
 I thought once I would Make Sixty bales now I am
 Sure I Cannot get More than thirty and I am af-
 fraid I Cannot get that.

Alls well but Myself I don't feel right

Fri. 4 Clear & Pleasant Grinding all day Mrs. Walker &

s s

Bet gone to L L T bad news Bet Say Lee Say My
 Crop is worse than he expected to See and Cannot
 make a thing only what is on it, I am born to bad
 luck No Matter how Much

I am not well

Sat 5 Clear. Staid at the Mill all day Bet & Mrs. Wil-
 burn gone to Mrs. Walkers on a visit the engine at
 Mill is doing badly and Continues to do worse

Alls well

Sun. 6 Clear & Dry Went to Church today Doctor Wil-
 burn delivered a lecture on the Cause of Mission
 Greathouse followed Jack Tyner dined with us

1857

SEPTEMBER

Oh how lonesome

Alls well

Mon 7 Clear & hot Staid about the Hill all day, going to the plantation tomorrow

Alls well

X S

Tus 8 Clear I was at the plantation to day women Picking Cotton. Men working on the road Cotton Opening verry fast, and verry Sorry

Alls well

Wed 9 Clear & Dry Staid at the Mill and about home all day Made Cotton frame

Alls well

Thur 10 Clear—& Dry Finished my Cotton frame & Staid about home at the Mill in the evening John Fears & Dave Gassaway had a fight to day

Alls well Bet & Mrs. Wilburn is at Mr. Walkers

Fri 11 Clear & Dry I went to the plantation had a beef Killed. All hands at work on the road. Cotton opening verry fast

Alls well

Sat 12 Clear Staid at home all day went to the dance At night the last night of the dance

Alls well

Sun 13 Clear & pleasant. Doctor Wilburn & Myself went down to bring our wives home from Mr Walkers quite a pleasant ride.

Alls well

Mon 14 Clear & hot Staid at the Mill all day Grinding nearly all new Corn I am quite unwell to day Father Started his first load of Cotton to Columbus today all hands picking Cotton today at the plantation Clem had the Croup last night & is not well to day.

1857

SEPTEMBER

- Tues 15 Clear and verry warm I am not well today I Staid at the Mill today Grinding untill three Oclock Sawing the ballence of the day Selling a good deal of Plank to day
- Wed 16 Clear & verry warm at the Mill nearly all day went to the plantation to See Green he is Sick Clem is Still verry hoarse and Continues to get worse I am verry uneasy about him for fear he will die with the Group like Emma & Clara Tis verry warm decidealy the hottest weather we have had this Summer/
- Thur 17 Clear and extremely warm Staying at the Mill. Clem is hoarser than he was was yesterday, but the Phlem appears to be loose in his throat. I am verry uneasy about him he is going verry much like his Sisters though I hope he will get well—I have not heard from Green I do not Know how he is
- Fri 18 Clear & hot Staid at the mill all day Grinding. Clem is worse today Moon Come up today Green is
s
not better. Brunson Called to See him he Say he is not dangerous our Mill is verry dull we are grinding verry Slow.
- Sat 19 Clear & Hot Staid at the Mill all day Grinding—Clem is better to day but worse again at night
s
Spencer Say green is Mending Mrs. Wilburn gone to Ridge grove.
- 20 Clear & pleasant I Staid at home all day Em & John dined and Spent the evening with us
Alls well
- Mon 21 Clear & Pleasant I Staid about home all day Cleaned out My well. Fixing my new waggon to go to Columbus Clem is getting well Lucy is taking bad Cold
- Tues 22 Clear & Dry Staid at the Mill today Jno Negroes quite Sick

- Wed 23 Clear & Dry Went to the plantation packed Cotton. Six bales
- Thur 24 Clear & dry Started to Columbus, Staid all night with the waggon
- Fri 25 Clear & dry I Sold Cotton in Columbus to day at 14¾ cts. this is the highest price I ever Sold Cotton.
- Sat 26 Clear & dry I Staid with the waggon last night on My way from Columbus I bought Me a buggy yesterday
- Sun 27 Clear & dry I went to the Texas Camp Meeting to day eat our own dinner & Come home by four O clock

Alls well

- Mon 28 Clear & Dry At the Mill today My bowells is out of Fix
- Tues 29 Clear and Cool Sawing and grinding at the Mill— Rachel brest has broke from a rising Green has Chills evry other day
- Wed 30 Clear and Cool Sawing and grinding at the Mill— Bad News from Columbus Some of the Northern bankS have failed and it has Created a panic in the Cotton Market their is No Cotton Market in Columbus at all— No news of importance verry dry
- s
- Rachel brest verry sorre She is doing nothing this week but

Alls Well

1857

OCTOBER

- Thur 1 Clear and Cool. Grinding & Sawing at the Mill— Paid the note we give for Henry to Elum for Hall & Moses

Alls Well

1857

OCTOBER

- Fri 2 Clear & Pleasant Staid at the Mill to day grinding & Sawing
Alls Well
- Sat 3 Clear & Cool Grinding at the Mill to day Nothing new only I am as Mad as the devil with Bill Moon for his bad Management he only Sent 5 bales Cotton the last load He is getting too big for his pants
Alls Well
- Sun 4 Clear dry & dusty Greathouse preached today at the baptist Church I did not go to hear him, McCloud preached at the Methodist Church. I went to preaching at night at the Methodist Church Strickland preached.
Alls Well
- Mon 5 Clear & Dry I went to the plantation to day Picking peas & ginning I think I have between five & eight bales of Cotton Open now My peas are turning out finely Charlie is Complaining he has Some fever, I Reckon he is taking Cold I hope tis Nothing Serious
- Tus 6 Clear & Cool Staid about home & the Mill all day worked Some on my waggon body Alls well except Colds the Children has bad Colds
- Wed 7 Cloudy & Windy Went to the plantation Packed Six bales Cotton I am affraid My Screw is going to give out, Picking Cotton
- Thur 8 Cloudy & Sprinkled a little today, New waggon broke down, had old waggon fixed up worked hard all day
Alls well except Colds
- Fri 9 Clear and Cool I got my plows from Ross HARRISES and gathered my patch of Corn at the Hill
Alls Well
- Sat 10 Clear & pleasant verry dry Worked on My waggon

1857

OCTOBER

body at the Mill until 10 Oclock I was Juror in a
Cace in Justice Court Show at night

Alls well

Sun 11 Clear & Cool Staid at home all day I am not well
preaching at the Methodist & prayr at the baptist
Church

Mon 12 Cloudy & Sprinkled rain in the Morning Clear &
warm in the evening— Made my waggon body-today
grinding at the Mill Willie Biddle is quite Sick I
have got the head ache tonight

Tus 13 Clear & warm— Grinding at the Mill old Summer-
e
ford wants three hundred dollars for his Servici s next
Can't give it Jake Halling wood

Alls Well

Wed 14 Clear & verry Dusty Staid at the Mill doing nothing
but grinding I am bad off with a cold.

Alls Well

Thur 15 Clear & dusty Went to Tuskegee to Court

Fri 16 Clear and dry Staid at the Mill all day Grinding
I am Sick

Sat. 17 Clear and dry Went to the Tuskegee Oh how very
dusty I am bad off with a Cold Pain in my brest

Sun 18 Clear & dry Went to Tuskegee today Cace did
not Come up

Alls Well

Mon 19 Clear & dry Staid at the plantation— Moon gone
to Tuskegee gathering Corn & pulling pea vines

Alls Well

Tues 20 Clear & dry Gathering Corn at the plantation going
to Tuskegee tomorrow

Alls Well

1857

OCTOBER

- Wed 21 Clear & dusty Went to Tuskegee. as joror did nothing
Alls Well
- Thur 22 Clear & dry Returned from Tuskegee
Alls Well
- Fri 23 Rain to day it has Sprinkled all day Shucking Corn at the plantation, I have gathered forty acres which turned out 14 bus pr acre Willis Gone to Columbus
Alls Well
- Sat 24 Rain I Staid about home all day went to the Mill in the Morning grinding all day Ed & Clem both taking this bad Cold Nothing new only we have had a beautifull rain
- Sun 25 Clear and Cool I Staid at home all day we are all bad off with Colds
- Mon 26 Clear & Cool Frost We have had frost Several
s
day before this this is My week at the Mill Grinding all day the engine is not doing well the thumps Considerably
All got bad Colds
- Tus 27 Clear & Frost Sawing & Grinding Selling but little lumber
All well except bad Colds.—
- Wed 28 Clear & dry Grinding & Sawing at the Mill Pate is Sick with bad Cold
- Thur 29 Clear Staid at the Mill all day dress the Mill today.
Pate Sick with bad Cold
- Fri 30 Clear Staid at the Mill today had a little party at the School house last night Bob Wynn, Made a fool of himself quite a pleasant a little party at the Close of the School Doctor Wilburn & his wife is gone to Ridge Grove today. Pete Sick

Sat 31 Clear & pleasant. Grinding all day Mill doing bad
Pate is better.

1857

NOVEMBER

Sun 1 Clear & Cool I have Staid at Home all day, Jonathan Thomas & family here in the evening alls well
I must go the plantation tomorrow to See how things
are getting on

Mon 2 Clear Went to the plantation Halling fodder Picking
Cotton & Ginning

Alls well except Emalines fingers where
She mashed them

Tus 3 Clear & warm Digging My potatoes at the Hill &
gathered my patches Corn

Alls Well

Wed 4 Clear & warm. Made me a horse trough & put up
My seed potatoes Stoped up My Crib.

Alls Well

Thur 5 Cloudy & Sprinkled rain Commenced Sowing wheat.
Picking Cotton &c Emaline has a bad finger.

Fri 6 Cloudy Sowing wheat & picking Cotton last
night the rowdies had a jubilee at the lodge Jolly
time

Emaline will not be able to do any thing in a
Month with her Mashed finger.

Sat 7 Cloudy to day we finished Sowing wheat Sowed 18
acres I was at the Mill a little while this Morning—
Grinding all the time.

Sun 8 Rain to day it has rained all the time without
Ceaceing water plenty after this.

Alls well but Emalins fingers

1857

NOVEMBER

- Mon 9 Cloudy & Sprinkled rain. Grinding at the Mill
Alls Well
- Tues 10 Clear and Cold Killed beef this Morning Grinding
& Sawing at the Mill
Alls well
- Wed 11 Clear— Sawing & Grinding at the Mill Alls well
- Thur 12 Clear & pleasant Sawing & Grinding at the Mill
Alls Well
- Fri 13 Clear Sawing & Grinding at the Mill Nothing new
I have finished picking Cotton all except what is to
Open Alls well
- Sat 14 Clear & pleasant to day Foote had his Sale big row,
no one hurt Whiskey aboard
Alls well
- Sun 15 Clear & windy Staid at home all day no preaching
Alls well
- Mon 16 Rain to day it rained all day I Staid at the Mill in
the Morning at home in the evening
Alls well
- Tues 17 Cloudy & Cold Went to the plantation divided My
s s
fattening hog put up 38 to fatten left 16 pig 2 hogs
4 Sows and a boar. Work in the new ground done
picking Cotton except what is to Open finished gath-
ering Corn except what is in the Cotton
Alls well
- Wed 18 Clear and big frost, Staid at the Mill all day J A R
Started to Georgia today
- Thur 19 Clear Staid about home and at the Mill all day, getting
wood & fixed potato house
Alls well

1857

NOVEMBER

- Fri 20 Clear and verry Cold, for the Season
Aalls Well
- Sat 21 Clear and Cold, Staid at the Mill all day Jordan gave his receipts to Some Scamp who represented a Comeing from father and he Sold eleven bales of Cotton
Aalls well
- Sun 22 Cold & Clear Lee and My self went to Columbus last night and a Cold night it was to See Something about the Stolen Cotton Could Make no discovery
Aalls well
- Mon 23 Cloudy & Rain Staid at the Mill all day Sawing & Grinding
Aalls well
- Tues 24 Clear and Cold Staid at the Mill all day, Built hog pen & put my hogs in a close pen at the Mill Cannot git any news from the Cotton theif
Aalls well
- Wed 25 Clear and Cold at work at the Mill Cotton going down 10 ¼ best
Aalls well
- Thur 26 Clear & Cold Staid at the Mill all day Sawing and grinding
Aalls well
- Fri 27 Clear & Cold Staid at the Mill all day grinding all day
Aalls well
- Sat 28 Cloudy & Windy Grinding & Sawing at the Mill John A Returned from Georgia last night
Aalls well
- Sun 29 Cloudy & Sprinkled rain part of the day Abbey

1857

NOVEMBER

Biddle & Eugene Come for Mrs & Doctor Wilburn
to day they will leave tomorrow

Alls well

Mon

30 Rain today Staid about the house nearly all day

Alls well

1857

DECEMBER

Tues

1 Cloudy I went to the plantation had a yoke of
young oxens tied up Packed 2 bales Cotton which
Made 38 bales I think they will be two more

s

Hands halling wood rolling log Picking up brush & c

s

Wed

2 Clear & warm Hunted wild hog in the Morning in
fathers field

Alls well

Thur

3 Clear & warm To day Father, Lee, Charlie Ed &
Myself went to Columbus

Alls well

Fri

4 Cloudy & Warm In Columbus all day Sold 5 bales
Cotton I got 10c for 3 bales and 8 cts for two
bought My negro blankets hats & Osnaburge Staid
all night in Columbus

Alls well

Sat

5 Rain to day it has rained nearly all day and we had
to Come home in it found all well

Sun

6 Cloudy & rained good portion of the day

Alls well

Mon

7 Rin to day I Staid at the Mill all day Grinding

Alls well

1857

DECEMBER

Tues

8 Rain Dressed Mill today

Alls well

Wed

9 Cloudy & Rain Grinding at the Mill I do not Know
what is going on at the plantation I have not been
s
there in Several day

Alls well

Thur

10 Clear & Cold Grinding & Sawing to day to night
L L T has a party at his house I am going

Alls well

Fri

11 Clear & Cold. I returned from the party at 5 Oclock
this Morning & feel Somewhat worsted I must go
to the Mill & go to work

Alls well

Sat

12 Clear & Pleasant, Staid at home all day

Alls well

Mon

13 Clear & Pleasant Went to the Mill this Morning
engine out of fix dont Escape right was at the planta-
tion in the evening

Alls well

Tues

14 I have written I See Since Tuesday this

Tues

22 is nothing o worthy of Notice has happened tis Said
Society Hill is incorporated, I ought to be tis getting
to one of the worst places in the Union

Alls well

27 “ The weather has been rainy and has turned Cold

s

on friday, I Killed my hog on friday last, I Killed
39 hogs which weighed 6293 pounds I have been
quite unwell all the week with severe pain in my
bowels Christmas So far has been verry dull— they
appeared to enjoy themselves pretty well about the
Grocery if noise Constitutes enjoyment, their is a

1857

DECEMBER

fine drove of hog at fathers.

Selling at 7 & 8— I feel Something better tonight
Doctor Wilburn is Still bourding at my house

The year is gone I have not written Since the
27 December this is the Second January, the two

day we have had in this year is quite pleasant and

beautifull day I bought 5 hog from (Droves) that
cost 7c gross Cost \$101.50 I Collect but little on my
Mill accounts

My horse is taking the distemper or has been badly rode. Some night I never Saw a horse in Such a fix

We had a dining on Tuesday 29th given to My
negroes Mother had one on Thursday 31,

Alls well

THIS IS THE INDEX FOR 1857

I planted this year 175 acres of Cotton, I packed 40 bales, averageing enough to Make 49 bales I planted 125 Acres in Corn and Made about 1700 bushels, I picked about one hundred bushel peas. I Killed 6807 pounds pork of my own raising I bought 1250 pounds pork paid 7c gross pr hundred I Made the best oats and the most of them I ever did in my life. the Mill is doing as good or better than I expected We book-
ed nearly 2704 Dollars with what Cash was taken in. My potatoe Crõp is Small fry I did not make many—I Made 67½ Bushels wheat— Some bad Luck had one negro born dead, had another born this year that was doing well, but it's Mother Smothered it at about three Months old, but little Sickness Adaline had had a pretty Severe attact of Typhoid Fever

Green was Sick a few day Doctors bill will not

amount to 20 Dollars Doctor Wilburn and lady left here at Christmas they boarded with me this year.

s

Moon Lived with me this year, for 250 D I give him 275 Dollars for the next year, I hired Aaron This year I paid 175 dollars I have hired him for the next at 150 Dr. and take him out long enough to Cut J Thomas grain

I will finish the remarks as soon as I Sell my Cotton. I will give the amount of Sales weight of bales &c My bales averaged a little over 600 pounds I Sold 6 Bales at 14¾c 3 Do at 10c 2 Do at 8c 29 Bales at 10¾ the whole Making average of \$10,96 and a fraction, the whole bringing 2736 D Dollars.

INDEX FOR 1858

I have planted for this year, 160 acres in Corn, 185 acres in Cotton 50 acres Sowed in Oats, 17 acres in

s

Wheat, 6 acres in Potatoe

OATS

My oats had the rust Something I never heard of before, I Made 9 loads but they were verry light,—

WHEAT

I Made 114 bushels of good Wheat

COTTON

I Made 53 bales averageing and brought

CORN

I Made about fifteen hundred bushels— My corn this year was light this year, owing to too much rain early in the Spring

POTATOES.

I Made at home and the plantation together about 500 bushels.

PORK

I Killed 26 hogs raised at the plantation averageing 202, lbs

12

I Killed 14 at the Mill averaging 141 $\overline{14}$ lbs. the whole weighing 7240 lbs. I Killed hogs the 4 th January.,

REMARKS FOR 1858

The Mill has not done so well as it did last year, but
Makeing

it pays as well as Cotton and I Make about
as much Cotton as though I had no Mill. We have
booked this year including Cash nearly 1800 Dollars

s s
and raised a good Many hog Killed 40 hog paid
old Summerford 250 Dollars to Stay at the Mill, I
have Made a pretty good Crop at the plantation,
which you can See by refering to Next page, I paid
Bill Moon this year 275 Dollars and five bushels
wheat, I pay him for the Next year the Same, I
hired Aaron for 150 dollars this year, and Cut Jona-
than Thomas Wheat & Oats, I hirre him for next
year for the Same, I have had but little Sickness—

s
My Doctor bill was \$12.25 and 7 50/100 Dollars was

s
Granny fee one negro born Rachel had a baby a girl
the 22 October I took a trip to Texas left home the
11th Nov. got back the 24 December, I did not like
the Country poorly watered and verry little timber, I
think it is verry much over rated. the trip Cost me
over 200 Dollars and I fear the asthma for life as
I am troubled with Shortness of breath, ever Since
I returned home—

We had a baby born the 27th August a boy, named
him James William Made 53 bales Cotton average-
ing 612,lbs brought 3678. 48/100 Dollars averaged
\$1131 pr lbs.

1859

JANUARY

S	1	Rain Staid at home posting Mill Books
S	2	Cloudy Staid at home Nothing new preaching
M	3	Clear Cold today, Working on my lot Sent after hogs
T	4	Clear & Cold Killed hogs I am not verry well

1859

JANUARY

W	5	Clear & verry Cold Cutting up and salting meat.
T	6	Cloudy & Cold Salting Meat, I am not well
F	7	Cloudy & Rain, Cutting in patch at the Hill
S	8	Cloudy & Rain " "
S	9	Cloudy & Cool No Rain to day Went to Jonathan Thomas
M	10	Clear Staid at home Writing all day posting books
T	11	Clear " " " "
W	12	Clear " " " "
T	13	Clear " " " "
F	14	Clear " I am Sick Dont get breath good"
S	15	Cloudy & quite Cold Collected a good deal Money
S	16	Cloudy Staid at home all day
M	17	Clear. Sowing Oats, Commenced last Thursday
T	18	Clear & Cold I went down to the plantation, Sowing oats.
W	19	Clear & Cold Mary had a gal baby last night
T	20	Clear I went up to George Reese to See some negroes
F	21	Cloudy, Rain Sowing oats negros Splitting rails at the Hill
S	22	Rain & Turned extremely Cold. I Staid about the Store all day
S	23	Cold. Extremely So, Ice bursted our Steam Mill pump
		Alls well
M	24	Cold, Ice bursted pump yesterday Pate gone to Columbus
T	25	Cold, Opening ditches at the Mill, Burning logs at the Hill

1859

M	26	Cloudy, It is Cloudy & Warm. Alls well
T	27	Cloudy. Pate got back did not get the Mill Started
F	28	Cloudy & Rain Started the Mill again
S	29	Cloudy Mill all right again
S	30	Cloudy & Cold Staid at home all day
M	31	Clear. Went to Columbus Sent last load Cotton

1859

FEBRUARY

T	1	Cloudy & Cold Great Many negroes Sold in Co- lumbus, Sold last Cotton
W	2	Rain Returned fro Columbus <i>Got tight</i> rained all day
T	3	Cloudy & Windy I am Sick to day, Mill running
F	4	Cloudy, Staid at the Mill Halling wood at the Hill
S	5	Clear. Paid father for 80 acres land I am <i>Sick</i>
S	6	Clear Jones preached I was at church I am Sick
M	7	Clear Sawing and grinding I am verrey Sick with a Cold
T	8	Cloudy and sprinkled rain. Halling wood at the Hill
W	9	Cloudy & Cold oh I have got Such bad Cough
T	10	Cloudy & Rain I am quite Sick to day Staid at the Mill
F	11	Cloudy Staid at the Mill Sick
S	12	Rain Made gate at the Mill <i>Newground</i>
S	13	Cloudy I Staid at home all day Negros Wedding at s Lee last night

M	14	Clear & Pleasant I am Sick a bid Party at Concert Hall to night
T	15	Cloudy I am Sick Big Party at Concert Hall last night
W	16	Rain. I went to plantation Commenced framed Mule Shelter
T	17	Rain At the plantation work on Mule Shelter
F	18	Rain and verry warm Shelter up & Reedy to Cover
S	19	Clear verry warm Plowed patches at the Hill
S	20	Rain I am Sick Staid at home all day
M	21	Clear & Cool at work at the Mill,
T	22	Clear Work at the Mill Buried Jno Stewart, bought Negro <i>Tom Saturday</i>
W	23	Clear at the Mill all day
T	24	Clear at the Mill all day
F	25	Rain & Warm Went to Columbus
S	26	Rained all day In Columbus
S	27	Cloudy & drizzle Returned from Columbus I am Sick
M	28	Rain I am quite Sick with Cold.

It has rained nearly all this Month We have done but verry little plowing and but Little else I do not think I ever Saw So Much rain it is So very wet I Cannot Clean up My plantation

The Mill is doing pretty well I have had a verry Severe Cold all the Month the worst I ever had

MARCH

This has been quite a wet month had but verry little windy or Cold weather, We have not plowed

1859

MARCH

More than two days at a time the whole month, and I never have been So far behind the Season in planting, I never Commenced planting Corn untill the
rd

23 and only planted about ten acres then before it rained and Stopped me,

th
then we Commenced again on the 28 I only prepared Sixty Acres of Corn land before I had to Commence planting, the ballence I run a furrow & list on it, & bar the Middle & run the rake over the Corn I have got got about 130 Acres Cotton ground listed about 10 Acres bedded out, I never Saw the ground look so dead & so badly washed Gardens are verry backward, I am Manuring all My Corn this year with Cotton Seed, I have old Corn enough to last this Month out, before I Commence on My last year Crop The Mill is doing pretty good business this year, We Saw about half the time & grind the ballence we are not much trouble with the Saw & Machinery.

I have had a verry bad Cough Since the last week in February & difficulty of breathing nothing I take does Me any good, I am fearful it will terminate in Some thing bad tis an awful bad distressing feeling it May turn out to be the Consumption or Some bad

s
disease of the lung I feel uneasy about it

Father gave me the lie about the tenth of this Month Since which time he has had nothing to Say to me or do with me it was verry uncalled for, it was in regaïrd to Something I Said about his Knowing his negroes parted & he allowed it

We have had pretty good health except Myself.

1859

APRIL

We have had a great deal of rain in this Month,
frost on the 23, 24 and a great many Cold Morn-
s

ing , Cotton & Corn grows verry Slow My Cotton
Comes up the Slowest I ever Saw. I never was as
Much behind in my farm in all My life, I have not
planted My newground Corn yet, I finished planting
Cotton the 27th I have plowed over fifty Acres of
Corn, & hoed about 20 acres My Wheat has the
rust which a general Complaint, I find no rust on
the Stem yet it is confined to the blade I never heard
of the rust Comeing So early, It Made its appear-
ance about the 10 of this Month Moon & his wife
has both had the chills allready, I hope they will
not Last long with that exception I have had no
Sickness Except my Shortness of breath which I
hope I will get Over, as I flatter Myself I am a
rd

little better, I had a Colt folded the 23 of this
Month, The black Mare lost one about the first of
the Month Our Mill is doing pretty busness Corn
cts

Sold at 75 first of the Month Some are Selling
at a \$1.00 We are Selling
cts

at 85 and more demands than we can Supply—

rd

Colt Yank folded 23 April 1859

INDEX FOR 1859

Weight of Mill Hogs 160—155—173—119—170—168
162—155—252—148—145—160—158—156—158

The whole 2439

Dick Hog 355

2794 pounds

INDEX FOR 1859

Weight of Plantation hogs

204—174—174—130—172
212—190—174—137—180—166
188—147—150—148—162—184
168—194—180—132—208—152
174—139—153—160—138 ———
178—204—146—210—135

Whole Amt. \$5514
2794
8308

I Made 77 bales Cotton averageing 607 $\frac{22}{77}$ pounds.
brought. 4780 $\frac{62}{100}$ Dollars Lowest price 10 Cents
and highest 10 $\frac{3}{4}$

Colt Folded
(Yank) Was folder 23 April 1859

6

Yanke	folded (23 Apl 1859)	Roan	Mares	Colt	Stud	Colt
Queen	" (9 " 1860)	"	D	"	Mare	Mule
Nellie Gray	" (12 " 1861)	Mollie	Mare	"	Mare	Mule
Johnson	" (10 " 1862)	Roan	"	"	Stud	Mule
Jennie	(23 Mar 1863)	Roan	"	"	Mare	Colt H
Lee	(25 " 1863)	Mollie	"	"	Stud	Mule
Capatola	(4th May 1864)	Lee	Mares	Colt		
Sallie	(27th Mar 1865)	Roans	Coalt	Filley		

INDEX FOR 1860

I have planted one hundred and fifty five acres in Corn & one hundred and ninty five acres in Cotton twenty acres in wheat and forty Acres in Oats, Seven acres in Potatoes

Mule Colt Queen folded ninth April 1860

Corn, I Made about 1800 Bushels Corn And Saved more good fodder than I ever had in my life,

I Made about 50 Bushels wheat a verry poor turn out, it was Killed with the Cold and then the rust took it

My Oats was not good but I made a pretty good average Crop I Made Fifty four bales, I will give the Average when I finish Selling I have had no negroes born this year, The Mill has done pretty good business, though we had Some bad luck bursted the boiler no one got hurt, the Repairs Cost \$251.80 besides loss of time the Mill will Make About 2900 or 3000 dollars this years.

Pork I Killed forty one hogs at the plantation & Eight and a half Come to My part from the Mill The whole amount weighed 9189 pounds plantation hogs weighed averaged 177 pounds Mill Hogs Averaged 227, I Killed the first day January 1861

Cotton Weights,
 643—662—628—614—651—606—863—652—653—578—
 595 The whole amt. 1145, Sold at, $9\frac{3}{8}$
 616—625—627—633—554—540—556—546—580—590—
 583—703—568—547—643—640—672—621—639—631—
 607—616—608—546—608—590—574—590—565,
 17416 at 11c

lbs

5 Bales Weighed 3240 Sold at 9c

9 Bales " 5299 lbs " " $12\frac{1}{8}$

Averaged Weight 608 $2/54$, Average Sale $\$10.4\frac{1}{2}$

Whole amt. Sales \$3500,26

1861

INDEX FOR 1861

(Nellie)

Mollies Colt folded 12th April 1861

Corn I have planted one hundred and Sixty five acres

Cotton I have planted one hundred and Eighty five acres, and thirty five acres of that crossed twelve feet in Corn.

Spencer died 19th August of Congestive feverst

Had four children born Daniel 1th March Maryth

Jennie 11th March Ben 4th May Aaron 6th August

& Kate 4 February

I Made 208½ Bushel Wheat of My own Crop and^s

about thirty bushel to My Share with the thrash, My Oats were not good I Made a good Many though they were verry light I have had More Sickness this year than I ever had in all the rest of My life, every negro I had on my plantation has had the fever Not one escaped, None has had it at the Hill except Myself, I have lost Sixteen hogs 13 of them over 1 year

^sold. Brown negroes Kill them I lost one Mule (Jack) one of My best oxens died in the Spring, I have had More bad luck this year than all the bal- lence of My life put together their has been More rain this year than I ever Saw fall in any two years before, This is the year Commenceing lilcolns wars and this is now the 20th of October, and from all appearances we are bound to have harder times than I ever before experienced in My life time, My Pea Crop is not good it has been too wet for them, I have gathered them pretty Close My Corn is Sorry though with what old Corn I have I hope to have enough, but where My Meat is to Come from I Cannot Say, time will unfold a tale that May aston- ish Many, I have a bad head ache today and I fear are return of My Spell of Sickness

1861

s

I have not been out of the bed only five day I have not been to the plantation in More than three weeks

s

Weight of Mill hog 301—181—228—291—253—230—194, Whole amount — 16,78 pounds Average weight

s

of hog Killed at the Mill this year, was 240 and
th
a fraction January 7 1862

To day I Killed My hogs raised at the plantation 20 in Number, the following are the weights—204—210—224—191—156—195—138—188—161—193—202—215—209—185—237—195—170—205—185—162— The Whole amt. 3825 The whole amount of Pork Killed this year is 5503 lbs I have about 700 lbs of old Bacon and I have bought 240 Gals Syrup which I Must try to Make do, Had it not have been for

s

s

Brown negroes, I would have had enough hog to Made Meat plenty Brown negroes got 13 one year olds as good as any I Killed & My boar that would weigh 250 lbs nett, & 3 Small ones, I Wish Brown & his negroes & his wife thrown in was Safely landed where the devil wants them, because My honest Opinion is they encourage their negroes to Steal, Enough about Brown & his negroes.

This the 8 January & Still I have not finished Ginning I have only 27 Bales packed and about 37 gined

not

& Some 8 or 10 to gin (Turn) I have halled a

v

bale of Cotton to Market,' & I do not think I will untill next fall & perhaps not then unless the Lin-

s

coln blockade is raised I have employed Bill Moon to oversee for me I am to give him \$300 dollars & if I Make a good Crop of Wheat I am to give him 5 bushel Wheat & let him have one or two Cows to

1861

Milk Tab (a negro girl) to nurse for him, & if his wife is sick & do not Object to washing for her.

I have half the chickens raised on the place, When I Sell My Cotton

I will Close the index for 1861.

I Had at the plantation when Moon took Charge the Commencement of 1862 13 old hens & 1 old Cock and 10 pullets & 3 young Cocks.

PLAT OF APPLE ORCHARD

	South										
	(	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	6—	7—	8)	
	(	16—	15—	14—	13—	12—	11—	10—	9)	
	(	17—	18—	19—	20—	21—	22—	23—	24)	
East	(32—	31—	30—	29—	28—	27—	26—	25)	West
	(	33—	34—	35—	36—	37—	38—	39—	40)	
	(	48—	47—	46—	45—	44—	43—	42—	41)	
	North										

I Commenced Numbering at the Pine Stump & Stake the first row Commences with No 1 at east and goes west to 8, Second row Commences Numbering with 9 at the West end and So on as the above check will Show above this I have lost the names of the trees I have just 80 trees in this orchard and only Know the history of 48, they were bought from Taunton of Russell County & recommended to be fruit of the best & finest quality. the following Numbers Show the names of the fruit trees

Taunton Seeding	No 1, 8, 12, 19, 25, 28, 34, 42, 46, 48,
English Crab	No 2x9x14x17x21x24x37x41x45x47
Long Nose	No 3x10x18x30x38
Spitzenburg	No 4x13x20x27x33x40
Shockly	No 5x11x16x23x26x32x36x43
Red June	No 6x22x29x35
Yellow June	No 7x15x31x39x44

1862

th

This is the 10 of June and this undoubtedly the wettest year I ever Saw I never plantey any Corn untill in April, and then had a great deal to plant over and Some I plowed up and planted the Second, the wet weather rotted the Corn & the bud worm was worse than I ever Saw. The rust ruined the oats, Not a Seed Made, except a few planters who had the Chapman oats, which Made pretty good oats, The wheat is also an entire failure perhaps Seed will be Saved, I have planted only ten acres in Cotton & Crossed twelve feet in Corn, My Corn up to this date is Small and verry uneven About 110 or 120 acres is nearly ruined by the little black Jumping bug Sucking it I Commenced to plant peas the 4th this Month, We are needing rain, though two weeks ago we had a fine Season Lee & Phonny left with Blacks Company on Tuesday the third of this Month, I have heard Since they left that their destination was Columbus Miss, or Tupelo Miss.

Corn	I planted 330 Acres, it made about 8 bushels pr Acre—
Peas	I Made the best Crop of peas I almost ever Saw grow, I have gathered a great Many I recon five or Six hundred bushels—
Wheat	Failure had forty acres Sowed Made 18 bushels verry Stuff rust ruined it
Oats	None Made
Cotton	Planted ten Acres. Made I Suppose about two bales. Have not gined it
Mule	I folded Roams Mule Colt Johnson
Hogs	Killed Plantation Hogs, 36, averaged 191 I have 79 Stock Hogs plantation Killed at the Mill to My Share 10 Killed My Hogs at Hill Mill Hogs averaged 201 I will give the weights on the other Page
Weight	186 — 198 — 183 — 148 — 163 — 196 — 193 — 182

1862

Plantation Hogs. 180 — 213 — 189 — 228 — 182 — 166 — 160 — 180
 227 — 191 — 163 — 182 — 261 — 225 — 137 — 239
 215 — 184 — 182 — 179 — 206 — 204 — 270 — 202
 247 — 198 — 242 — 137 —

The average 195 28/36. Whole Amt 7048

Weight Home Hogs 170 — 147 — 204 — 168 — 190—
 180 = 1059

Average 175 pounds

Weight Mill Hogs 201 — 207 — 298 — 226 — 226 — 202 — 158 — 213 —
 163 — 176 — 154

Whole 2224, Average 202

The whole amt Pork 10331 lbs

Cows 36

Work Oxens 8 or four Yokes

I have had four negroes born, Abby, Alice, Jane & Fannie lost two negroes, Monroe & Clarenda, died in a few days of each other, the Mill is doing tolerable good business for hard times every thing is high these War times Shoes from 10 to 25 dollars. Salt 35 to 40 dollars pr bushel &c

1863

I have had no overseer, this year Charlie & Myself have attended to the business. This year has Surpassed 1862 for rain, I never Could plow My Corn but once it rained nearly evry day—More or less from about the Middle of May untill the first of July, This Cruel war has So flustrated me I have had no enegry If I Make any thing 'tis taken for taxes, Have a tenth of all that is Made to give to the govern-ment one pr Cent on the valuation of Cattle, and Milch Cows Are valued at 175 to \$200 dollars & other Cattle in proportion,

1863

Wheat.	40	Acres	Sowed, Made	311 buhels
Oats	45	"	"	300 "
Corn	340	"	Planted "	1200 "

I Lost one Mule (Beck) Killed two beefs old Red & Ben Killed 40 plantation hogs Killed 21 Hill Hogs & Sold 13 Mill Hogs to the government 9 hogs from Plantation Weighed 1986 pounds gross

1863 Continued- I raised 40 Pork Hogs at the plantation 21 at the Hill & 13 to My Share at the Mill, Making in all 74, Weight of fol.

Hill Hogs. 122—133—205—156—157—172—111—
136—170—175—119—159—175—177—
133—211—158—125—116—400—296

Mill Hogs 204—234—183—210—147—174—238—
145—134—171—109—171—112

Plantation Hogs 234—140—272—244—190—168—155—
187—182—254—186—187—212—269—
200—197—170—147—155—257—183—
155—218—229—164—246—271—178

Whole Amt. pork 11840

I planted no Cotton My Stock Hogs are diseased, I have 13 young Kids, and 21 old goats about 40 pigs, This has been one of the worst Crop years I ever experienced. I had a hard Spell of Sickness this faul Brother L L T was Killed this year on the 20th of September at the battle of Chicamauga, This war is an awful thing, and I have no idea how it will terminate only I Know we will be finally Striped of all our property & turned loose to Starve, Their is now More rascal ity going on in this our Confederate government than our Maker will tolerate Much longer.

1864

This is 9th of April I have finished planting Corn about the 20th of March, but the Cold and rain Keeps it from Comeing up, I have but verry little Corn up to this time. I expect to have all to plant over, if it Should quit raining. This has been the longest & Coldest winter I have ever Seen. Making a Short Crop last year I had but little to feed Cows upon & Consequently I have lost a good Many of My Cows & year-
s
ling My hogs have all been di seased & I have lost nearly all my pigs, I have 101 Stock hogs at the planta-
s
tion including Pigs & fifty at the Hill including pig Mollie has lost her Colt. Lee has not yet had her Colt, Roan Missed All in all I have bad luck So far
s
this year. Lee Colt folded 4th May She Carried
s
it 13 Months likeing 6 day " Colt named " Capitola "

1865

My Crop this year is nearly a failure I had planted in Corn 370 and did not Make More than 800 bushels of Corn. I planted 6 acres of Cotton Made about 600 pounds of See Cotton,(100 lbs pr acre) My oat Crop was Sorry— 75 acres in oats & I Made I Suppose about 200 bushels 12 acres in potatoes 400 bushels,it rained nearly all the Summer Had two negroes born Monroe & Nancy No overseer Charlie gone to the wars & I half or more of the time bothered to death,is the only Chance to attend to the place

Corn	370	Acres,	Made	800	bushels
				lbs	
Cotton	6	"	Made	600	Seed Cotton
Oats	75	"	Made	200	bushels
Potatoes	12	"	Made	400	Bushels

1865

Wheat	60	"	Made	85	bushels	
Syrup	18	Millet	Made	300	Gals	
Rice	2	"	Made	6	bushels	Clean
Ground Peas	4	"	Made	8	"	Sound
Hay			Made	2000	pounds	
Fodder			Made	4000	"	
Peas			Made	400	bushels	
Barley			Made		Seed	

Had two negroes born, & 1 Colt.

Killed 198 — 187 — 169 — 202 — 144 — 158 — 153 — 129

58½ hogs 116 — 136 — 56, 176 — 140 — 124 — 140 — 144

Weights. 168 — 157 — 133 — 190 — 170 — 192 — 164 — 214
 148 — 136 — 190 — 141 — 188 — 184 — 168 — 157
 145 — 144 — 180 — 203 — 135 — 187 — 135 — 145
 134 — 170 — 138 — 146 — 125 — 135 — 144 — 155
 133 — 130 — 209 — 118 — 155 — 173 — 148 — 154
 140 — 144 — 114

The Whole 9011 lbs.

Killed one beef, Mill is doing pretty good Grinding
 Sawing none.

INDEX FOR 1866

Planted 60 acres in Cotton, Made Seven bales Cotton,
 Worked 8 ½ hands Made 600 bushels Corn Paid
 Freedman ¼ Corn & 1/5 Cotton Made 71 Bushels
 Wheat about one hundred bushels oats, Made 76 Gals
 Shorgum Syrup Poor Crop. Lost by the Operation about

s

\$ 1400 Counting provision Consumed.

Killed 37 Hogs Plantation

145 — 180 — 180 — 137 — 184 — 158 — 186 — 180

1866

134 — 125 — 124 — 190 — 160 — 118 — 142 — 175
156 — 170 — 155 — 115 — 170 — 216 — 89 — 95
101 — 132 — 121 — 146 — 125 — 128 — 95 — 232
160 — 152 — 157 — 140 — 206

Plantation Hogs	5689
Mill hogs 305— 95—160— 89—117—109	875
<hr/>	
Whole Weight for (1886)	6564

The Mill done but little Made, Bread for our families
& cleared Some three or four hundred dollars, Sawed
but a Short time as we Could find no Sale for Lumber.

INDEX FOR 1867

Planted forty acres in Cotton and Eighty acres in Corn,
Worked 7 hands. To with Joe Harry, Tom &
Frank, Bill Campbell.Sim Charlie & Ed, which made
7 Goods Hands We Made 500 bushels Corn; 14 bales
Cotton Oats About 150 bus. Oats.

Peas about 150 " Peas
Potatoes 600 " Potatoes

Sugar cane for all hands to eit.
I Sold Cotton at 17½ Cents, Cotton brought 1045
Dollars.

s	
Paid hireling to wit	
Joe & family	340
Bill Campbell	125
Sim	50
Charlie	200

s
I Killed 31 hog the aggregate weight was 4390 pounds.

1867

All the joints Spoilt; I have only 18 hogs in all left for another year. The Mill has done pretty good grinding but little Sawing, Sawed about fifty thousand Sold about half of the Lumber Have only three hands hired for next year, Freedman Won't do to tie to

s

Bought four hog from Father. Father has Given his plantation to the Children I don't Know. how we will Manage with it the next year. This has been a good Crop year. I expect better than we will have for Several.

The Mill has done but little Sawing and only tolerable grinding John B Yates attended to the Mill for two hundred dollars and his bread, Next year John & Myself will attend to the Mill I think we can Manage better.

INDEX FOR 1868

Charlie and myself are farming together on a Small Scale Could not get any hands We Commenced with

th

Ike & Mike & Bill Camell Bill quit the 12 of May, I hired Some day hands & Eddie Made up the hand until the Crop was Made.

Charlie Planted 35 acres Cotton Made

" Planted 60 " Corn "

" Sowed 15 " Oats, " 75 bus.

" Planted 5 " Potatoes "

" Sowed 7 " Wheat " bushels 30

" Fodder

The rust and heavy rains in May ruined the wheat Crop, From the 12th of May untill the 17th of July we had no rain to do any good We once had as pretty prospect for a Crop as I ever Saw but the drouth

1868

ruined the Corn. After the rains Set in in July the Cotton bid fair to Make,a fine top Crop.up to the time the worms Commenced,which was about the 20 th of,August, the worms eat evry leaf and the end of evry tender boll,— We will Make no peas,

I had the orchard, and the Pinkston lot planted in Cotton,3 ¼ Acres, which bids fair to Make a Splended yeal, I manured the orchard with first Stable Manure then Cotton Seed, Pinkston patch with Cotton Seed Alone The Mill has done a good years grinding We will Make 700 or 800 bus Corn at the Mill and Saw enough to pay expences Brad Ran the engine Paid him 150 dollars and fed him, Richard Split wood for us at 50 c pr Cord

When the year closes I will give a full account

	^s	
	Weight of hog	this year
^s		
Mill hog	175 — 165 — 106 — 127 — 114 — 91 — 149—	
Home hogs	927 — 170 — 180 — 185 — 185 — 147 — 227— 170 — 153 — 187 — 166 — 252 — 207 — 212— 136 -- 175 — 182 — 135 — 175 —	32 44

		41 71
	Let Charlie have	8 67

	Whole Amt.	\$ 33 04

The year is ended. and but little Made Charlie only Made five bales Cotton,which brought 714 dollars,five hundred bus Corn 200 bus potatoes. The Mill done but little as we did not have but few *hands*.

1869

I am now nearly a year behind with My Journal Made
11 bales Cotton, 450 bus Corn Killed 2600 pounds
of pork

Mill done verry good business, I have So much to
do,for the last two years I have not time to write We
all have our business to attend to no Cook.

1870

s		
Weight of Hog	Killed for this year	
Mill hogs,	170—160—138—176— 96	740
Home hogs	208—220—232—196—225	
	209—216—228—208—214	2156

		\$ 2896

Total Amts Ponds

I Made only one hundred and fifteen bus Corn off
My patch of Six Acres, Two bales of Cotton is My
Cotton Crop, it appears that My race as a planter is
finished, I hope to Keep Sole & body together yet
Awhile.

1871

I planted this year 18 Acres Corn & Made 160
bushels, I Made only two bales of Cotton, Had Six
acres planted Made about 250 bushel potatoes Mill
has done but,little this year,Charlie & Myself are
Selling goods together this year,we are doing a pretty
good business for this place

Weight of Hogs 158—147—180—260—184—196—125

1872

pounds, 1250 I planted this year 18 Acres of Corn
Made about 150 bushels. Made five bales of Cotton
had only ten Acres planted about 200 bushels potatoes.

Mill has gone up quit Milling the last of February.

Still Selling goods & doing a pretty good business I
had no one to work this year except Ed and Sandy
and day hands, this was a Splendid Crop year.

I had only four hogs to Kill I have lost the weight
but the whole weighed about 730 pounds.

INDEX FOR 1873

I killed 9 hogs weights as follows.

158—213—191—154—185—188—165—196—100
average .172 Total weight \$ 15.50

Had Jim & George Sandy. & Ralf a boy laborers . Made
9 bales Cotton Averaging 500 pounds. Made 250
bus Corn 3 Small load of Oats, 60 bus Wheat 15
bus peas 300 bus potatoes, (poor Crop)

1874

This year I planted 35 acres Cotton & had all to plant
over,owing to the faulty Seed and to much rain &
Cold the Seed did not Come up, Planted but twelve
acres of Corn expecting to plant some at the planta-
tion, & 'tis been So wet I have planted but little
there & that will make but little— this is one of the
bad farming years. In the Conclusion I will give a
more accurate account of what has been done this year
th

Sowed my last turnips 17 October.Sowed Small
th
patch Wheat 17 also. Sowed barley & grass Seed
th
the 20 of Oct. Made 7 bales Cotton.three hundred

1874

bushels Corn, Killed Seven hogs weights as follows
 140—159—159—155—143—182—153 Making in the ag-
 gregate 1093 pounds, and an average of 156 pounds.
 Ed farmed with me this year Worked Jim, George,
 Sandy, Ralf & Sallie Phillis Cooked for us, Jim Wages
 \$ 100 with rations Georges, the Same as Jim Sandy

s

wages \$ 60 cloths & rations Ralf wages \$ 15 cloths
 & rations Sallie \$ 12 Rations & Cloths, not much
 done this year, bad Crop year, Sowed 10 acres Wheat
 had part to Sow over, wheat wevel eaten I Made this
 year, 120 bushels Wheat.

1875

th

Commenced to plant Corn Thursday 18 March
 th

finished planting on the 26 March planted 27
 Acres. Made, only 130 bus Corn, Planted Twenty
 five Acres Cotton Made Seven bales averaged 500
 & a little over Sold it for, 11¼ Cents. Cotton verry
 low, Made potatoes 250 bushels Wheat 108½ I am
 doing poor business planting My land is verry poor,
 I used about 75 dollars worth of Fertilizers, I had to
 work for me Sandy Ralf Alf. Whitlow untill he
 was Killed raising the bridge in October Bula & Lee
 untill Judy Alice Cooked for us. Killed 7 hogs
 lbs

averaged about 175 lost all the Joints from warm
 weather. This is a bad year to Make the best of it. no
 rain from early in May untill late in June, the bell
 th

rings I will go to breAKfast this is now the 20 day
 of March 1876 and no Corn planted. Adiew

APPENDED DATA

<i>Ages an births of Negroes</i>					<i>Time of Death</i>	
1	Spencer	Gift	I Torbert	Born	1806	19th Aug. 1861
2	Chaney	Gift	I Torbert	born	1805	
3	Green	Gift	J Torbert	born	1824	
4	Willis	Gift	C Walker	born	1810	
5	Emaline	Gift	C Walker	born	1820	
6	Mary	Gift	J Torbert	born	1826	
7	Pate	Gift	J Torbert	born	1835	
8	Peter	Gift	C Walker	born 10 Dec.	1838	
9	Wiley	Gift	C Walker	born 10 Jan	1842	
10	Milton	Gift	C Walker	born 15th Mar.	1844	16 November 1852
11	Amanda	Gift		born 10 July	1843	
12	Seilla	Gift	J Torbert	born 27 Dec.	1842	
13	Ester	Gift	J Torbert	born 1 st Oct	1845	
14	Claranda			born 12 Sept	1845	12 th December 1862
15	Nelson			Do 7 Oct	1846	10 July 1847
16	Eliza			Do 19 Aug	1847	
17	Mely			Do 19 Sept	1848	
18	Edenboro			Do 26 Feb	1849	
19	Sarah			Do 25 April	1849	
20	Gus	bought \$ 750		born	1835	
21	Big Pate	bought \$ 925		born	1830	
22	Jake	Do 925		born	1820	
23	Tabby			born 13 Apl	1851	
24	Harriet			born 26 May	1851	29 Aug 1855
25	Cela	Gift	C Walker	born	1837	

<i>Ages and births of Negroes</i>				<i>Time of Death</i>	
26	Adaline	Gift C Walker	born 1852		
27	Tom		born 18 June 1853		
28	Jim		born 14 Feb 1854		
29	Lucy		born 16 Nov 1854		
30	Rachel	bough 937½	born 1840		
31	Candice	" 937½	" 1839		
32	Kissey		" 28 th Apl 1856	8 th Sept	1864
33	Martha	bought \$ 1000	" 1842		
34	Lewis		" 25 Dec 1856		
35	Mary (Rachel Child)		" 22 June 1857	13 Aug	1857
36	Julia		" 22 Oct 1858		
37	Patience		" 19 Jan 1859		
38	Tom	bought \$ 1350	born Feb 1843		
39	Henry	Do \$ 1250	" x 1845		
40	Monroe	" 1250	" 1845	6 Dec	1862
41	Sidney		Born 19 Nov 1859		
42	Angelina		" 16 Dec 1859		
43	Emily		" 27 st 1859		
44	Daniel		" 1 March 1861		
45	Mary Jane		" 11th March 1861		
46	Ben	Born	4 May 1861		
47	Harrison	"	6 Aug 1861		
48	Abbey	"	2 nd April 1862		
49	Allice	"	8 June 1862		
50	Jane	"	23 Nov 1862		
51	Fannie	"	9 December 1862		

<i>Continued ages & births</i>				<i>Deaths</i>
52 Spencer	"	22 June	1863	
53 Mollie	"	9 Sept	1863	
54 Robert	"	13 December	1863	
55 Caroline	"	18 December	1863	
56 Monroe	"	5 May	1864	
57 Nancy	"	4 Sept	1864	Dead
		th		
58 Luke	"	29 March	1865	
		"		
59 Roderick	"	12 June	1865	

" The above lot of Negroes were freed by Yankes and as a matter of Course they are particular friends of Mine— If evry yanke had a negro in him and the negro had a fit I would be better Satisfied."

AMT GIVEN C L Torbert

1	Horse	175.00
1	Buggy	275 00
1	Suit Wedding Cloths	65 00
	Cash	500.00
2	Cows & Calves	30.00
1	Sow & Pigs, Bought a fathers	
	Sale	6.50
	Rent of House & Lot 1871	60.00
1	House & Lot-	200.00
40	Acres land	250.00
		<hr/>
		1561.50

86		
Mch ———	Cash	938.50
, 25		2 500 00

's
Receipt

To prepare a tincture for Colds and Coughs Croup & c Take 1 pint of good vinegar 1 teaspoon full of lobelia Seed $\frac{1}{2}$ tea Spoonful of Cayenne pepper put in a bottle and Mix by Shakeing occationally let it Stand four or five days. For use, Mix equal parts of the above tincture and honey in a vial, shakeing always before use,—Dose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon full according to Size give occationally

This receipt given by

Joe Cunningham

Representative of Macon

County Ala 1856

Receipt for Flux Cordial

Take a large Single handfull of the inside of red oak bark" Ditto of the inside bark of the black Haw Root " Ditto of Dewberry Brier Root Boil them together in a gallon of water, down to half a gallon; then Strain through a Coarse Muslin Cloth; then put it into a pot, and add to it one ounce of powdered Ginger, one ounce of powdered Nutmeg, one ounce of powdered Cinnamon bark, and boil it down to a quart then add to it one quart of French Brandy and two pounds of loaf Sugar. Keep it Covered close while boiling, and let it boil about fifteen Minutes; then Strain into bottles, and Set it away in a Cool place

Receipt for Flux Cordial

Directions

For a dose if the Case is bad, take a large table Spoonful evry three hours untill the disease is Checked, and if not a bad case, a table Spoon full three times a day, Morning Noon & night.

Money Deposited in Bank

April 28th 1869.	In Gold	7250
" " "	In Silver	141.70
March 25th 1870	In Gold & Silver	5145.50
		<hr/>
		12537.20

This is the Amt of Money left with Mother after Two thousand to each heir in Gold and Silver

	^s Green back.	859 25
	Gold & Silver	6012 00
Mothers Money	Gold & Silver	449 95
		<hr/>
		\$ 7321. 20

March 1869

In November 1869, We divided	6012 00
Silver in Bag \$ 56.53	<hr/>
	\$ 1309 20

Turn to old Estate book

Mother had in Money when I paid over to her

Cash I held	219.45
Cash Paid Henry Rent	35.00
Coin in jar	452.50
Mothers Part of what I had Collected from Crump	72.55
Mothers part of land	312.50
Silver in Jar	56.53
	<hr/>
	\$ 1148.53

This is the Amt of Cash Mother had when I paid her the amt. Comeing to her from the land Sale in Feb 1873

Mother died 16th October of the Same year 1873

Couriers from Missi.

Wilson raid

Take all girls off in Woods

4 abreast

13 Cotton houses

fence—

Took all mules except blind one. Negro that gave stock away drawn.

Every thing except win-thought it poisnouse

Gold in stone crocks, took up moss, put moss back.

Cut up feather bed.

Drank Well dry— Col gave gourd.

Cow— had to put foot in something— yet kicked

Mr. Buch— hung by his thumb.

G Grandpa rejected, mud 250 could get in Cavlry—

Charlie 16

Lee killed in Battle of Chickamaugee

80 000 acres

had gold to hold property,

G Grandpa died, Uncle Bob had measles.

Charme

Masonic on watch & the federal officer to put it on his person—

Grany Torberts house at the Hill built 1849—commenced building Wed.

July 25, 1849—the brick came from Auburn ala-

In Dec 1853 I bought negro from Grigg's estate for \$1255

" Negro very high"

Aug 1855— " Father received letter to day announcing death of Uncle Sam Torbert Aug 1855— 22 " I wrote a letter to Uncle Benj F Torbert "

Commenced building at Hill July Wed. July 25, 1849—Kitchen & Smoke house,

August 3— " ready to raise my house at Hill"

- Aug 4— raised kitchen & Smoke house
- Aug 13 covered Gin house
- Aug 17 finished gin house
- Aug 22— Started to Heard Co Ga—
- " 26 Got back from Heard Co to day
- Aug— This month I have got all the timber for my house commenced framing and covered the kitchen—
- Sept 8 1849 " raised house at Hill.
- Sept 26 Weatherboarding my house
- Oct. 15 " Got all floors in my house workmen can finish in ten more weeks"
- Oct. 31 finished my house woodwork all except chimney pieces & doors
- Nov 22 Hauling brick from Auburn for house chimnes
- Dec 20 Fencing my yard at Hill—
- Jan 11 1850 Painting House at Hill
- Jan 12 Moving to Hill
- Jan 13 Went down after " Bet "
- Jan 14 At home in my new house
- Dec 1852 Employed Maberry as overseer
- Jan 1853-28— Father starts to Campbelton with \$ 8689.70
- Feb 4 1853 Father returned from Compbelton bought 6 negroes
- Oct 3 1853 Started to Tennessee had quite a pleasant trip, Father & myself were together—we went to Gilmore County Ga—cold lot of land for \$50.00 traveled in cars—Saw two uncles John & Andy Torbert.
- Oct. 17 got back from Tenn.
- Dec 1853 Friday 2— Baby last night 10 minutes to one.
born

Ed— Torbert.

A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE OF 1905

By Rear Admiral John Hood*

As the only officer of the "Maine" still living who not only felt, but saw the destruction of that unfortunate vessel, I have been frequently asked by friends to write an account of my own personal experiences on that memorable night, and put on record what I saw and felt. Hitherto I have not done so, as well from a knowledge of my own inability to do the subject justice, as from a natural disinclination to dwell on anything so terrible. Time has, however, somewhat softened the recollection, without in any way diminishing its vividness, or altering my original opinions and convictions based on my own personal observation as an eye witness of the explosions;—and having been recently urged again to give the account to the world while the facts were still fresh in my memory, I have decided to accede to the wishes of my friends and give a short sketch of the fateful night as vividly as my feeble ability as a writer will permit.

To fully understand what follows, it is necessary to keep in the mind a picture of the general construction of the upper works of the ship; and a short description of them will be given, though perhaps nearly everyone is long since familiar with the outside appearance from the numerous pictures published all over the country immediately after the disaster.

The "Maine" was a vessel with a flush deck carrying on it three superstructures and two turrets. Each of these superstructures was centrally placed, and about half the beam of the ship in width. The forward one extended from the bow of the ship to a short distance abaft the foremast. Then came an interval of clear deck sufficiently long for the training of the forward turret guns across the deck between the forward and middle superstructures. Then came the middle superstructure, much the largest of the three, extending aft about a third of the ship's length. Then another interval like the one forward, allowing the train of the after turret guns across the deck; and then the after superstructure, extending to the stern.

* Admiral Hood was born Dec. 3, 1859, in Lauderdale County, Ala., and died Feb. 10, 1919. He graduated at Annapolis and was assigned shortly thereafter to the battleship "Maine." This manuscript of his experience at the time of the destruction of the "Maine," in Havana Harbor, was sent to the Department by the widow, Rosalie Caswell Hood, Jan. 23, 1934.

On either side of all three superstructures and between them was a clear deck running fore and aft, except where it was obstructed by the two ten inch gun turrets. These were placed diagonally, instead of centrally, the forward one on the starboard side between the forward and middle superstructures, and the after one on the port side between the middle and after superstructures. Thus standing on the starboard side of the main deck, the view forward was cut off near the bow by the forward turret, and on the port side at the quarterdeck by the after turret. But sitting anywhere on the quarter deck, except close abaft the after turret, a clear unobstructed view was obtained to forward in the starboard gangway.

Through the middle superstructure passed the smoke stacks, boat cranes, and fire and engine room ventilators; and at its forward end was the armored conning tower, above which was the bridge and pilot house. The deck of this superstructure carried six inch and six pdr—pounder—guns, and above these were girders carrying boat cradles.

The after superstructure contained the offices and cabins of the ship, and on either side of it were boat boat davits. On the night of the destruction the gig was at the davits on the starboard side, and the barge and a whale boat at the davits on the port side.

Between the middle and after superstructures ran a fore and aft bridge, on either side of which, above the quarter deck, were cradles with two large boats in them. On either side of these and our boat gangways the awnings were spread; but the deck on either side of the after superstructure was uncovered.

Below the main deck was the birth deck, the main living space of both officers and men, the officers aft, the men amidships and forward. Below this the stoverooms, holds, machinery and magazines. These latter, down in the very bowles of the ship, were divided between the forward and after ends, some of the magazines being forward and aft beneath the end superstructures. But the two largest, containing the powder of the 10 inch turret guns were at the sides of the ship opposite the two ends of the middle superstructures. Near them were also some of the smaller magazines containing powder for the 6 inch guns. The position of the forward 10 inch magazine and the 6 inch near it should be especially noted, for their explosions played an important part in the lurid tragedy of the night. This 10 inch magazine was on the starboard side of the ship, just abaft the forward turret, and directly beneath the forward end of the starboard gangway.

If this brief sketch of the position of things be borne in mind, what followed can be easily understood.

Man is everywhere a creature of habit, but the regular routine of sea life makes sea faring men doubly so. It was due to this common law that I, of all the *Maine's* officers, became an eye-witness to its destruction. It had become my invariable habit, when not on duty, to write letters until about half past nine every evening, and then select a pipe or cigar and go on deck to smoke until about half past ten or eleven. On the night of February 15, 1898, I finished my letters as usual, at half past nine, selected a large cigar for the evening's delectation, and went on deck.

Before sitting down for a comfortable smoke, I went to a hatch on the quarterdeck, and picked up an old briar pipe from where I had left it earlier in the day and put it in my trouser's pocket. This pipe is now my only relic from the ill-fated ship. I then lighted the cigar and sat down on a chair I found on the port side of the quarter deck, opposite the forward end of the after superstructure.

It was a beautiful night, warm but pleasant, and everything about as quiet and peaceful as my own thoughts. From where I sat I looked out over the waters of the harbor to the lights of the city; but by turning my head to the right without moving my position, I had a clear unobstructed view across the quarterdeck, and well up the starboard gangway. By the light of the gangway and from the superstructure doors, I saw the quarter watch required to remain on deck sleeping peacefully beneath the awnings in the starboard gangway. The body of the crew had turned in their hammocks half an hour before, all the officers except the one on duty were below, and the only moving things on the deck were the sergeant of the guard, the sentries on duty, and two men standing extra watch on the quarterdeck. Hardly any thing was moving in the harbor, and the wind was still. A more perfect scene of peace and rest could hardly be imagined.

I sat smoking in quiet enjoyment several minutes before my eyes became accustomed to the darkness after the glare of the electric lights below. Then I noticed Lieut. Blandin, the officer on duty, in the shadow of the after turret, His head was bowed between his hands, and he was looking so doleful that I began to rally him for being gloomy on such a beautiful night, and endeavored to cheer him up, but with very little success. He had been at sea considerably over the usual allotted time, and had not expected to make the trip in Southern waters with us, and was much cast down in consequence of being compelled to do so.

We had been talking scarcely fifteen minutes when there was a shock and a sound that may be felt and heard, but that no words can describe. This was followed almost instantaneously by a second and larger sound, and the quiet peaceful night was changed from a scene that might be the reflection of God's own beauty, to one of death, fire and destruction, accompanied by the crackling of fire, the groans of the dying and the wail of the wounded and mangled, tortured beyond the power of human endurance.

There are times when human thought is swifter than the velocity of light. At the very instant of the first shock, and before the second explosion, I knew from the sound and "feel" that the ship was irretrievably wrecked by an underwater explosion. There is a sound and "feel" about underwater explosions easily distinguishable by one familiar with them, and unmistakable for any other, but difficult to describe in words. Before I had time to make a physical motion, the thoughts of my mind translated themselves into the unspoken words, "they have done us this time."

In the merest fraction of a second between the first and second explosion, I had only time to turn my head; and looked over the quarter deck and up the starboard gangway. The first view was as clear and unobstructed as when I had come on deck a few short minutes before. But this was instantaneously changed, as the second great explosion followed the first, and I saw the whole starboard side of the deck with its sleeping burden, burst out and fly into space, as a crater of flame came through, carrying with it missiles and objects of all kinds, steel, wood and human. This was the explosion of the forward 10 inch magazine, and it was a sight magnificent in its horrible destructiveness. After it a few isolated smaller explosions occurred in quick succession that I took to be the detonation of some charges scattered by the great explosions—and then all was still except the cries of the wounded, the groans of the dying, and the crackling of flame in the wreckage.

The two great explosions occupied perhaps only a small fraction of a second, and were so close together that they probably coalesced and appeared as one to an observer a short distance away; and what I am going to relate of the many thoughts that came to my mind in that time, though absolutely true, will probably be questioned by many who have had no experience of imminent peril.

As already stated, I realized the destruction of the ship, and my thoughts translated themselves into the unspoken but felt words spotted above, before I had time to make a physical movement. I only had time

to turn my head between the two explosions, and to spring to my feet during the second. In this time, I realized clearly that the explosion I say was that of the forward 10 inch magazine, and the smaller magazines adjacent. I realised that I was safe from that explosion, but that if it extended to the after magazines, I and all others in that end of the ship would go up in the air, even as the poor fellows I then saw rise with the wreck of the starboard gangway. I looked for the explosion to be communicated to the nearest after magazine, the other, large 10 inch one and I knew if it did, I would only be saved by a miracle, and knew it was hopeless to do anything for if the explosion came, it would come before I could make a spring. As this magazine did not explode immediately after the others, I knew it would not; as the body of the ship forward was blown to pieces and the water would rush in and be protection against any explosion that had not been already communicated, and I knew I was safe from danger of further explosions.

As these thoughts passed with inconceivable rapidity through my mind, I saw by the glare of the fiery crater that opened out over the forward magazines, the air filled with all kinds of missiles and debris, large objects and small, flying in all directions; and knew that danger was not over, though explosions had ceased; and I sprang in close to the side of the after superstructures, It was impossible to find any protection from wreckage that might fall from overhead, but by keeping close to the side of the superstructure, two steel bulkheads were placed between myself and any objects flying horizontally; and I kept close to its walls as I made my way quickly aft to a point on the quarter when I could climb on its upper deck, as soon as the flight of wreckage ceased. As I did this some object whizzed close by my head and carried away my cap, but fortunately did not touch me otherwise.

Meantime, Mr. Blandin had sprung to his feet also, but looked to port, when his view was cut off by the after turret, and thus failed to see the terrific destruction of the second explosion.

As I sprang to the partial cover of the superstructure, he called to me "Where are you going?" and I answered, "to lower the boats that are left," and hastened on without stopping. He sprang after me, and I afterwards learned from him that a flying piece of debris had struck the back of his head as he was following and knocked him down, half dazing him for a time.

By the time I reached the after end of the superstructure, the flight of missiles had ceased, and I swung myself up to the upper deck. The

only other person there was a marine sentry, standing on his post with his rifle, like a statue.

My eyes were adjusted to the darkness, and my vision was perfectly clear. To port the view was obstructed by a mass of fallen wreckage, but to starboard it was clear and open. Where the body of the ship had been was the great twisted mass of wreckage—later becomes so familiar to everyone from the many published photographs—the wood and inflammable material about it just beginning to burn. To the right of this was a semicircular space about 75 or 100 yds. in diameter, of seething, foaming water filled with sinking and floating wreckage and debris of all kinds. And from all parts of this space came the helpless groans and moans of the dying. There were few calls for help. Most of the mangled mass of humanity scattered with the wreckage in that foaming putrid water were beyond that. It was simply the last groans of men beyond all hope, the saddest and most heart-rending sounds that ever strikes the human ear.

All that I saw and heard the instant I reached the deck; and even in the short space of time it took me to run across the narrow deck to the gig—the boat nearest the sinking men—the number of groans were perceptibly diminished, as more and more of the poor fellows lost their feeble holds of the pieces of wreck they may have siezed, and sank below the water forever. I siezed on of the boats falls and called to the sentry to lower the other, and we started the boat down. But the rapidly sinking stern of the ship, bound down to port by the after turrent, heeled to that side, and the boat caught on the side before we had it well started. Mr. Blandin happily arrived on the deck at this time, having succeeded in recovering himself after his blow, and with his assistance we shoved the boat clear, and had it well lowered by the time some of the other officers and a few men and servants succeeded in reaching the deck. They manned the boat just as they came, an officer, a sailor, a servant or a marine, a motley crew that would have excited laughter at any other time. But there was no laughter that night. The thought of every one was to get in that mass of wreckage, when the groans were becoming fainter and fewer all the time, anyway and anyhow.

Others as they came to promptly lowered and manned the barge on the other side; and the whaleboat further forward, that was overlooked at first in the darkness that was lowered by one young officer alone, who threw off one fall after the other, jumped into the boat and pushed into the wreckage.

When the gig was gotten away, I turned and ran forward to where

I heard some groans coming from the rapidly sinking quarter deck. I then perceived that the Captain and the Executive officer who had both hastened to the poop, the former closely followed by his orderly, private Anthony. I heard the Captain as I was passing ask Anthony what it was he had said to him a moment before, and Anthony repeated the now famous report, "I reported to you the ship was blown up, Sir."

As I passed Comdr. Wainwright, the executive officer, I called to him, "You have your war now," referring to a number of discussions we had had on the subject of going to war with Spain; he being in favor of wae first, last and all the time, and I being opposed to going to war on the subject of Cuba. His eyes were not yet accustomed to the darkness, and he did not recognise me, but knew it must be I.

I also heard the Captain whose eyes were still unused to the darkness and could not see the extent of the wreck, give the order to flood magazines, and I replied as I passed that those that were left had long since flooded themselves. I went by him without stopping and did not know that, nor do I know yet whether or not he heard my remark.

When I reached the forward end of the superstructure and ran down the quarterdeck ladder, considerably less than five minutes had lapsed since the original explosion, and yet the stem of the ship that was practically intact from the engine room to the sternpost, had already sunk to the main deck that was listed to port; and water was just beginning to come over the starboard side of the quarter deck. The disrupted waist and bow of the ship had gone down like a shot.

I reached the man whose groans I had heard just in time. He was a private marine, and I learned afterwards he had been sleeping over the middle superstructure just abaft the forward smoke stack. He had been thrown horizontally about 60 feet with a miscellaneous collection of smoke stacks, ventilators and other heavy objects, and had landed on the quarterdeck awning, which had been torn from its fastenings by the heavy wreckage falling on it, and one of the heavy ventilators had fallen across the man's hips, holding him firmly to the sinking deck. The awning had undoubtedly saved his life in the first instance, But he was badly bruised and jarred, and doomed to death by drowning unless speedily released from the ventilator. I seized this and lifted with all my strength, but could not move it, and the water was creeping up my legs. I was beginning to despair of getting him out in time when Mr. Blandin ran down and joined me. With our united efforts, we only succeeded in lifting the ventilator enough to barely loosen the man's legs; but there was no one to pull him out, and he seemed incapable of

helping himself. There were not many seconds to lose; and as we strained at the ventilator, I spoke to the man gently and encouragingly, and endeavored to get him to exert himself enough to pull out his own legs. But it was all in vain, and he only continued to groan and lie like one paralysed. Finally, at the last moment, remembering the efficacy of a well delivered oath on a former occasion of peril, as Mr. Blandin and I gave a last heave to the ventilator, I called to him with all the power of my lungs, "G ——— d———you! pull your legs out!! — and he did just in time. We picked him up and carried him to the upper deck and safety; and I then looked about the quarter deck again, but could neither see nor hear further signs of life about it.

Meantime the fire was gaining in the woodwork and canvas about the great tumbled pile of wreckage over what had been the middle superstructure, and began to cast a lurid light over the ghastly scene; and the shreds of awnings and other inflammables about the after superstructure and in the wreck over the quarterdeck, began to fire also. There was much ammunition mixed in all this wreckage, whose explosion as the fire gained head would not only endanger the few people left on board, but also the rescuers at work in the boats, that by this time had begun to swarm about the wreck. Knowing this, the Captain directed the few people about him to see if the fire could be checked. To carry out this order, and also to discover if there still any lives to be saved in the tangled mass of wreck before us, I first pulled down some burning canvas near the poop with my hands, and then climbed forward along the wreck of what had been the bridge between the middle and after superstructures. Naval Cadet Cheveniss accompanied me on this expedition, and the Executive officer and naval cadet Boyd made a similar one along the starboard rail.

The bridge itself was wrecked, and the boats on either side shivered to splinters. To the left, over the after turret, lay one smoke-stack—that had hitherto shut off all to port from my view,—and to the right the other with ventilators, beams, frames, davits, guns, and all manner of distorted, twisted wreck—We crawled forward, holding to anything that would bear, looking carefully for signs of life, and finding none. In this way we progressed till we had reached the middle superstructure, and passed the forward ends of the fallen smokestacks. Then, for the first time, I had a clear view of the disaster to port and it was as awful and terrible as it had been to starboard. We proceeded till we reached the point where the ship had been literally blown away, and could go no further, and looked down on a mass of wreckage, floating debris and foaming water, in which some men were still struggling and calling for

help. It was very like the other side had been only there were fewer death groans here, for it was some time later, and the greater part of the poor fellows whose groans had fallen on my ear in the first silence after the great explosions had already rendered up their last accounts. Many boats were rescuing those still alive, among which I recognized boats from the Spanish ship "Alfonso XII" and from some merchant ship that I knew to be American by the speech of the crew.

While watching them, and looking for signs of life in the tangled mass on which we stood, I heard, or thought I heard, the smothered sounds of some poor fellows far below, imprisoned in some compartment far beneath the water and not yet dead, doomed to an agony to which that suffered by those above was as nothing. There was no help for these, and finding no living thing above, and the fire was beyond our reach, we made our way back to the poop, where Comdr. Wainwright and Mr. Boyd arrived about the same time, having been more successful, and assisted in rescuing two men from the wreck of the starboard waiste.

It had been scarcely twenty minutes since the first explosion when all of us still left alive on board were gathered on the poop. Nothing further could be done, and the fast gaining fire increased the danger every moment from exploding ammunition. We on board had explored the wreck as far as possible, the others in the boats, assisted by the Spanish and merchant steamboats—that I learned then came from the "City of Washington"—had rescued all that could be found on the floating wreckage and in the water. It was the end; and the Captain gave the order to abandon the wreck, leaving last himself in his own gig, and directing a boat to patrol around in a safe distance to rescue any one should anyone still be unfound miraculously appear.

In one short half hour from the time I had been sitting smoking peacefully on the quarter-deck of the "Maine," I was standing on the deck of the "City of Washington," gazing sadly at the charred, burning fragments and twisted distorted wreck of the once gallant ship, wondering how many of my late ship-mates had been blown into eternity.

Shortly after our arrival on the "City of Washington" the executive officer directed me to make a muster of all our officers and men on that vessel, and there occurred one of those little personal incidents that illustrates so well the force of habit, and shows the humorous side of sailor nature, even in the midst of great disasters. The order was given me while I was alone forward looking at the wreck, and just after I had drawn my old pipe from the pocket where I had placed it a few minutes before the explosion. I had obtained a small bag of tobacco from the

Cap. of the steamer, filled the pipe and lit it, and started aft for the saloon where most of the officers and men were collected, those with some experience and knowledge assisting the surgeon in his ministrations to the only too few burned and wounded fellows who had been brought on board. As I appeared in the light with the familiar old pipe between my lips, and the smoke curling up peacefully as in other days, notwithstanding the solemnity of the scene and the sadness of the surroundings, nearly all the officers burst out laughing, and several of my friends exclaimed together, "Great Lord," man. Have you been smoking it all the time."

The muster occupied but too short a time. I was horrified to find that only 29 souls, all told, of our whole compliment were on the City of Washington. On reporting this to Comdr. Wainwright, he was equally surprised and shocked; and I suggested to him that perhaps the bulk of those saved were on the Spanish ship 'Alfonso XII,' as I had seen a number of her boats assisting in the rescue. He immediately sent an officer to the "Alfonso" to find out the number there, and we waited anxiously for his return. His report that there were only 29 on that vessel also only increased our consternation at the extent of the disaster; and we wondered how it was possible so few of the whole gallant ship's company should have escaped alive. Later in the night we learned that some few had escaped to the shore unhurt, and a small number badly wounded been taken to the hospitals of the city; but all the fragments together only making up the pitifully small number now so well known.

At early day light the next morning Comdr. Wainwright had the gig manned by the half dozen of our men on the "City of Washington" who were capable of pulling an oar, and he and I got in it and rowed over to investigate the wreck by the first light. We arrived before it was full daylight, and were warned off by a Spanish patrol boat from the "Alfonso XII."

To keep marauders from the wreck and having no means of guarding it ourselves, the Capt. had during the night sent a request to the Capt of the "Alfonso" to establish a patrol; but he hardly thought the order to the patrol would extend to prohibiting the approach of his own officers. Looking at it in this light ourselves, Comdr. Wainwright paid no attention to the warning, and we rowed slowly around the wreck.

As the light gradually strengthened, and the whole extent of the destruction wrought came to our view, we looked at each other, and wondered, not as we had done the night before that so few had escaped, but that so many. In the whole history of the world I do not

believe that any ship has ever been destroyed with such devilish completeness and perfection as this.

We had just completed one circuit of the wreck, and were starting around again, in the fuller light, when another boat with a Spanish officer in it came up and again ordered us off. I explained to him in Spanish who we were, and besides Comdr. Wainwright was in complete uniform though I was myself without a cap. The Spaniard replied it made no difference, his orders were that no one should approach the wreck. To avoid any unseemly and useless contention, Comdr. Wainwright finally consented to leave and we rowed sadly back to the "City of Washington."

All that followed is matter of history and not personal reminiscence, and I have only one or two more remarks to make, not on the night itself, but on its sequel.

I have been frequently asked, and am still sometimes asked by persons of seeming intelligence, "Do you think the 'Maine' was blown up by an inside or an outside explosion?" It seems almost incredible that such a question should continue to be asked after the publication of the evidence and findings of the "Maine" Court of Inquiry, especially in view of the striking evidence furnished later at Santiago by the Spanish ships themselves, of the results of internal magazine explosions. But the question continues to be asked all the same. Were it not too late, I would advise all such enquirers to visit Havana and the Cuban coast west of Santiago. To those who could not do so, I would say I do not think on the subject any longer. All my thinking was done on the night of Feby. 15, 1898; and I know, from my own personal observation, at the time, that the initial explosion was one outside, under-water explosion. That the explosion was communicated to the forward magazines, and the destruction wrought marvelously increased thereby is true; but the original cause was from without, and the fact that the Devil's work was so effectively aided from within was merely an incident.

J.H.

JOHN HUNT

By

Robert C. Hunt, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The first white man known to have settled in the Huntsville area was an indian trader by the name of John Ditto and usually referred to as "Old Man Ditto".¹ Ditto's Landing was located at the present site of Whitesburg on the Tennessee River about ten miles south of Huntsville.² Supplies were brought down the river from East Tennessee and unloaded at Ditto's Landing from which point they were carried by pack horse to the settlers in the Big Bend of the River. He is said to have operated a ferry.

It is well established that Joseph and Isaac Criner were the first settlers to actually build a home and work the soil in what was to be Madison County.³ Isaac Criner related how his brother's wife baked bread for John Hunt and Andrew Bean when they stopped over night at the cabin near New Market on their way to the Big Spring in the fall of 1804. Criner said that both men went back to Tennessee, Bean settling on Bean's Creek in Franklin County and Hunt returning to the Big Spring.

It seems certain that John Hunt with the aid of his two oldest boys, William and George, built a two-room cabin near the Spring in the fall of 1804 or the spring of 1805. We are told that William felled the first tree to go into that house and shot the last bear to be killed in the vicinity of the Spring.⁴

A large family had to be moved and cattle driven from East Tennessee but there is little doubt that the Hunt's were well established in their new home by the summer of 1805.

David Larkin, Jr., the eleven year old son of John Hunt's friend and companion in Virginia and East Tennessee, according to tradition had a great adventure helping to drive the cattle. Later as a merchant in Larkinsville, Alabama this boy was to drive cattle to market at New Orleans and Augusta.

These frontiersmen, for the most part of Scotch-Irish descent, in the years just before and after the Revolution, spread to the southwest through the valleys of Virginia and into East Tennessee. The route known as the Wilderness Road turned to the northwest through the Cumberland Gap and on into Kentucky along the route followed by

Boone.⁵ Rockbridge, Botetourt, and Fincastle Counties lay in the path of the route and from this Southwest section of Virginia the families of Hun, Acklen and Larkin moved into East Tennessee. It seems that families moved together in those days for they later went to Middle Tennessee and North Alabama.

The will of Henry Larkin was probated in Botetourt County, Virginia in the year 1773. His son, David Larkin, born in 1752 and mentioned above, was a contemporary of John Hunt. With their families, they arrived in Hawkins County, East Tennessee about the time that Rogersville was settled and from there moved on to Franklin County, then considered West Tennessee. John Hunt's son, David, married David Larkin's oldest daughter, Elizabeth, in Winchester on February 25, 1806. The facts available confirm the tradition that John Hunt emigrated from Virginia sometime before the Revolutionary War.^{5a}

John Hunt is usually referred to as a soldier in the War for Independence but this fact has not been established. He was, however, an experienced fighting man because in the year 1790 when the Territory South of the Ohio River was established Governor Blount appointed John Hunt, Captain of Militia, and David Larkin, Justice of the Peace, for Hawkins County. These men were sworn into office at Rogersville by Judge David Campbell on Wednesday, November 3, 1790.⁶ John continued to move toward the West and we next hear of him in Tazewell, Tennessee about forty miles from Rogersville and just below Cumberland Gap.

Tennessee had become a state in 1796 and when Claiborne County was formed of parts of Hawkins and Grainger Counties by Act of October 29, 1801, the County was organized at the house of John Owens on December 7, 1801 and county officials, among them David Rogers, Sheriff, were elected.

"The last named, David Rogers, was unable to give bond and John Hunt, Sr. was elected to fill the vacancy. The next term of court, (Court of Pleas and Sessions) was held at the house of John Hunt who lived on the site of Tazewell."

A commission was appointed to lay off the town to be known as Tazewell, "the site was chosen upon land occupied by John Hunt, Sr. and doubtless owned by him." John Hunt, Jr. was a member of the first grand jury.

"The Methodist early made Tazewell a preaching place. Bishop Asbury in his journal speaks of preaching "at Hunt's at Claiborne Court-

house on October 14, 1802." The records show that John Hunt, Sr. served as Sheriff of Claiborne County from 1801 until 1804 and that his son, John Hunt, Jr., was Sheriff of the County from 1820 through 1836.⁷

But this man kept on the move and in the year 1804 when the term as Sheriff that had been thrust upon him had ended, Hunt and Bean left their homes in East Tennessee to find the Big Spring they had heard of located on land claimed by both Cherokee and Chickasaw Nations not far south of the Tennessee state line.

According to the account of Anne Royall,⁸ early woman journalist, written after a visit to Huntsville in 1818, these two picturesque Irish frontiersmen pulled up their horses at the bank of a stream to be known as Bean's Creek near the present site of Salem, Tennessee and about forty miles to the north of their destination.

"This stop brought a change in Bean's plans. Beside a blazing fire and suspended quarters of deer and bear, he decided that this spot was the site he wanted for his cabin. The music of the creek, stars shining through the heavy forest, fertile soil, pure water and a bountiful supply of game seemed too ideal a setting to pass by. He informed his friend of his conviction.

"Hunt, however, believed there were better locations ahead and shoved on alone the next morning. After a march along the old Winchester Trail, he came out upon a bluff. Closer examination revealed this to be an immense spring which flowed away to the West to a broad marsh well stocked with fish and surrounded by game. So this was John Hunt's introduction to the site where the town bearing his name was to be started."

Anne Royall described Hunt as "standing 5 feet 10 inches in height, his 180 pounds were a mass of flexible steel. His courage and endurance were immeasurable. He was fond of hardships, adventure and daring but he was valued most among those early frontiersmen for his caution."

Hunt played an important part in opening up Madison County. When an order was issued for a public road from Winchester, Tennessee to Ditto's Landing, now Whitesburg, the old trail over which most of the early settlers came down into this section, the pioneer was selected as a guide.

He led a party of 40 men, a part of whom served as guards for the Indians bitterly opposed the road. These men blazed the trail and

cleared the route from Whitesburg, by the Big Spring and through New Market, to the Tennessee line.

When the surveyors, Thomas Freeman and John W. Garyson, came in 1808 to run the original boundary lines of Madison County," with their instruments packed on horses, they came directly to Hunt's cabin and employed him to guide them in their way." The original county as laid out, was in the shape of a triangle with its base on the Tennessee River. Lands belonging to the Cherokees bordered the county on the East and hunting grounds of the Chickasaws lay to the west.

The white settlers were pushing further and further into the lands belonging to the Indians. In a few years Andrew Jackson was to pass through Huntsville many times in his campaigns against the Creeks. The following account of this early American journalist is all that we know of John Hunt's part in the battles between the early settlers and the Indians.

"In his many treks among the Indians, Hunt made one staunch friend. He was Big Jim, a member of the Cherokee Nation. Often they met in the forest and talked to one another in the savage's sign language. Their customary meeting place was a spot east of Byrd's Spring Branch.

"On one occasion Hunt found a message carved by the Indian upon a tree near the spot where they met. The caricature showed a buck running toward the Indian Nation, while on the opposite side of the tree, toward the white settlement, was outlined a heart pierced by an arrow.

"Hunt understood the warning and assembled the whites at once. The Indians had not declared war but he knew that they planned to surprise the settlers in the valley and drive them from their hunting grounds. Ten days later, the Indians, discovered in a swamp, were attacked and defeated."

There has been much speculation about why John Hunt didn't buy the land he had settled. Some say he was tricked by Leroy Pope. The facts do not justify this for Pope paid a good price for the land, \$23.52 per acre, and the circumstances do not indicate that there was any trickery involved. Others say that he was not financially able to pay for the land. He could not have been a wealthy man but the census of Madison County of 1809 shows that he owned five slaves.

It just may be that he didn't want the land. Boone didn't buy the land he settled. We first heard of him when he left the Yadkin country

of North Carolina, next in East Tennessee and then in Kentucky. But Boone continued to push westward and died in Missouri. These men were explorers and adventurers.

After Leroy Pope acquired the large tract that includes a good portion of Huntsville, at his request, the Territorial Legislature gave the town the name of Twickenham. This was the name of the home of the English poet and his kinsman, Alexander Pope. Before that time the location had been known as Hunt's Big Spring. For some reason, a later session of the Legislature changed the name to Huntsville. It will be remembered that the British opposed the settlement of the West and incited the Indians against the pioneers so it is not hard to believe that these people preferred naming the town for the old Irish frontiersman. Some say that Hunt had left this area when the town was named for him in 1811. He was there in 1809 for the census of that year lists him as the head of a family of eight.

Nowhere in the records, letters or traditions of these people is there any mention of his wife. The chances are that she did not reach the Big Spring but was buried somewhere along the trail. There are, however, records and letters written by his sons, David and John, Jr., and we know something of them.

David served as a Major with Jackson in the War of 1812. His great grandchildren live on the old home place at Huntland in Franklin County and the Larkins are still there too. John, Jr. went to Missouri and died there in 1847. His children were pioneers in California.

George Hunt was born February 14, 1787, lived for a time in Talladega County, Alabama, and moved to Texas with his wife, Lydia Campbell Hunt, in 1837. They lived in Washington County, Texas, where he died August 22, 1838.

William remained in Alabama and probably died in Huntsville.

When and where John Hunt died is not known. More than likely the old man spent his last days with one of the children. There were no rest homes in those days but we believe there were taverns where old hunters could get together and swap stories about the good old days.

*(Read footnotes and see letters which follow
beginning on page 94.—Editor)*

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Huntsville Times — September 11, 1955
- ² "The next day (October 12, 1813) he (Andrew Jackson) joined the cavalry (under Coffee) at Ditto's Landing on the Tennessee below the outpost settlement of Huntsville." Andrew Jackson by Marquis James. Page 157.
- ³ "Away back when I lived in Huntsville, I was told by Mr. George Shwartz, who was especially interested in Tennessee River history, that old Captain Matthew Mahan had told him that as a boy, hanging around the Huntsville taverns, he heard much discussion regarding the first man in the county. The concensus was that Hunt was the first to live here, but he was a hunter; Ditto was also in about the same time but he operated a ferry, and that my husband's ancestor, Isaac Crimer was the first to actually till the soil."
 Letter, September 8, 1951 — Mrs. Howard C. Jones, Sr.
 New Market, Alabama to Robert C. Hunt.
- ⁴ "William Hunt cut the first tree that ever went into a house where Huntsville now stands. He also killed the last bear that was killed near the Spring — and that occurred between the Bank and the Court House. Dr. Stanhope C. Smith told me of these matters and he had them from his father and William Hunt."
 Letter, William E. Skeggs, grandson of William Hunt, Decatur, Alabama to Ben P. Hunt, Huntsville, April 2, 1901.
- ⁵ *Wilderness Road* by Robert L. Kincaid.
- ^{5-A.} During the year of Henry Larkin's death, 1772, "the congregations of Ebbing and Sinking Springs on Holstin's River, Fincastle, County, presented a call to the Reverend Charles Cummings signed on behalf of the congregation by William Blackburn, John Hunt, John Robinson, and Christopher Acklin."
 Annals of Southwest Virginia.
 Every generation of Hunts from the sons of John to the present day has had a "William Blackburn."
- ⁶ Vol. IV, Territorial Papers of the U.S. Southwest Territory, Page 436-7.
- ⁷ Goodspeed, East Tennessee Editions. Claiborne County, Page 847-8-9.
- ⁸ Huntsville Times, January 26, 1936. Article by Pat Jones-Letters of Anne Royall published about 1919.
- ⁹ Henrietta Hunt married Calvin Morgan of Huntsville and their son, John Hunt Morgan, the famous calveryman of the Civil War, was born in Huntsville. Her father was John Wesley Hunt of Louisville, Kentucky. *Life of John Hunt Morgan* by Cecil Holland.

Tazewell July 10th 1826

Dear Brother —

Misfortune has at length induced me to write to you; and as my loss is one of no ordinary magnitude, I should reflect on myself were I to withhold it from you. My eldest daughter (Polly) is dead. She was taken on the 29th, June with the fever & died after an illness of six days on the 5th July inst. To have had a family for twenty years & upwards, & never to have been crossed with a misfortune of this kind before; to have raised a blooming & promising daughter to the age of 18 years, and then to have her swept away, by the chill blasts of deaths' destructive storm, is a circumstance that has inflicted upon my heart a wound that nothing can ever heal while my memory serves me. But when I reflect that our loss is her infinite gain, the heaving sigh & gushing tear are for a moment checked. She gave the most unequivocal evidence of her acceptance with God & seemed to shrink at the cold touch of death with perfect tranquility & without a groan or a murmur. She enjoined it on me & all the family, to get religion & meet her in Heaven. And I feel at this moment a resolution to try and obey her injunction. To be told by a dying and affectionate daughter, in the last agonies of death, "Father I want you to meet me in Heaven," is a solicitation that none but the most obdurate heart could withstand; it has created feelings in my bosom that I hope may never be erased. She sung in her last moments part of the following lines—

"When we have been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We have no less days to sing Gods praise,
Than when we first begun"

Part of these lines she sung distinctly, after death had stamped his gloomy seal on her countenance, which caused tears of Gratitude to God to flow, particularly from her mother, as well as regret for her death.

Excuse me for having consumed this much of your time in this Melancholly detail, but it is the circumstance that I could write to you about, that would either interest you or myself. The ballance of the family are well. Our corn crops are good, wheat crops quite inferior. I continue to be sheriff yet, but am almost induced to quit from the hardship of the times. I shall probably come to see you this fall, if my business in Alabama is not otherwise adjusted. You will surely not neglect writing to me soon, if you do, I shall consider it a breach of that friendship which I so fondly hope exists between us.

My wife and family join most fervently in a tender of their love and esteem to you all.

I remain your brother by love
as well as by nature

John Hunt

D. Hunt

Be so good as to show this to as many of your brothers & sisters as will be convenient — as it will be too tedious to write to them all — I shall however write to sister Elizabeth Acklin.

J. H.

Tasewell T
July 12th

18 3/6

Mr. David Hunt
Salom Franklin Cty
W.T.

Mail

Salim Nov 7th 1830

Dear Son I this day ese Mr. Wedington In this place and stats to me that he saw you in the monty of July and you stated to him that you had Wrote Several times to this Country and had Not Recd any answer I Can Just Say the Same for I have Written I think this is five Letters and have Never Recd. but two from you and your mother is Very oneasy about you by reason of not hearing from you oftener then What we doe But the distance is so great probel the Letter has been miscaried by neglect of the post masters We are all Well Except your mother She has been onwell for some ten or fifteen days but is Now on the mend

I Wrote to you about 15 days Since Which if you Receive Will give you Some of the perticulars of our Country your Relations are all Well So far as my knowledge Extends Clinton is Living with your uncle David William Came from Thare three day ago they are all Well our Crops gather in Very Short We have had no Rain Since the Second day of August until the 2th Day of this Inst we had a Small Shower

Nothing more but Remain your affectionat father and Mother till Death

P.B. write to us as often as posebul the Children all Send thare Complement

David Elizabeth Hunt

John C. Hunt
Arcansis
Territory
Near fort Gipson

Larkinsville July 28 — 1835

Dr Brother Opportunity offers & I drop you a few lines as I did not know yesterday that I would have this oportunity I sent you a letter by the mail I am in good Health Clinton can give you all the news I will be over sometime if nothing happens Your friend & brother

Wm. B. Hunt

David L. Hunt

Frogtown

By C. A. Hunt

Larkinsville, Ala. March 4th 1835

Dear Sarah I Red your favour by the hand of uncle Davia stating your health & love for your Teacher which was pleasing to me I am glad that you are pleased to be a good girl & learn as fast as you can try & stand head in your class I will come and see you when I can I am busily Engaged hardly have time to write you an answer to your letter Clinton will be at home before long and can give you all the news write to me when you have an oportunity I believe it is more than my older Sisters will do I will bring you a present when I come for your love Remembered towards me give my love to all your little Cousins and Father & Mother. tell Polly, Jane & Ara that I would like to see a letter from them — your friend & Brother Wm. B. Hunt

P.S. I will be at ***** as Uncle David * * * Philadelphia & Back & I ***** before I could not read all your

letter what I could not read I guessed at — I would be glad to see you
all when I come I will stay the longer Wm. B. Hunt

Miss Sarah A. Hunt
Salem Tenn Franklin Cty.

Taladega 17th — Sept 1836

Dr Brother our troops have just past this place I am going on with
them Uncle George and William are both here they say the family are
all well I am going home with them to night I am in good health
and well pleased I want you to go and tend to my business after your
time is out in Salem for I have no idea of getting home again that time
we are going to Florida we were mustered into Service in claysville on the
8th give my respects to all your friend and Brother

Wm B Hunt

TALLADEGA

Sept 20

AL

(postmark)

George W. Hunt Esq
Salem
Franklin Cty Ten.

In camps near Talahassee Florida Oct 27th — 1836

Dear Brother I have just read your letter dated 7th which gave me
considerable Satisfaction I had just Started you a letter by Mr. Stovall
but think it not amis to let you know that I have received your letter
I have nothing more to write than what I Said of you in my letter of
yesterday I am still well in fine spirits & think we will whip the indians
easily I dislike vary much going on the gulph but cannot help it. I
have no fear or dred on my mind but what I will see you all in Tennessee
again & before I would disgrace myself or relations I would face the
mouth of the blazing cannon and be torn asunder I know that this is
what will establish a mans character if we are brave & Stand up to what

is honorable and right in defence of our country & Should be cut off from time our names will live after we are no more if we escape our names will live with us

Wm B Hunt

I wrote to Clinton by Capt Roberts he said it would take him about ten days to return to his company Clinton is where letters cannot reach him only by express you can write to me at Tampy Bay our battalion will be nearest that point & I will always have an opportunity of getting your letters tell Father & Mother to give themselves no uneasiness about me I fear four times as well as I had any Idea of before I left home and I know that you all think that we see worse times than we do the Tennessee have seen some hard time since they have been in the nation on account of provisions but we came out with that expectation we will have the advantage of them on account of being nearest the bay where all the provisions will land & I expect have the most indians to fight. Your friend & Brother

Wm. B. Hunt

St. Marks 31 st October 1836

Dear friends I am now about to set Sail our horses are on board the Schooner Howel I hope we will have a delightful trip the Capt says that we can Sail to Tampy bay in thirty six hours if we have a fair wind it will just depend upon the wind it has taken Seventeen days Genl Jessep says that he will complete the business we came here for in ten days after he commences his operations the Indians are fortified in the forks of the two Arthlacoochys the object in our going by water is to get on the opposite side of them Call will be on this side Armstrong in the forks we will all commence operation at the same time they will have no possible chance to effect a retreat & it will not be as has been heretofore if Christ be for us the indians cant face us Give my love to all the friends

Yours Wm B Hunt

S. MARK
Nov. 2
FLORIDA
(postmark)

Mr. George W. Hunt
Salem
Franklin County
Tennessee

Near Fort Brooks Tampa Bay E.F. May 4th 1837

Dear Clinton I take a pleasure in writing you a few lines to give you the news of this country when I sent you the first last and only scrap that I have since you left this place my calculations were at that time that we would have been released from the service before this time, & that I should have seen you, but unfortunately for us the indians have failed to comply with their promise and there is none of them off yet; There has been some fifteen or twenty vessals in the Bay for the last two months ready for emigration, but the indians ask for a longer time than was given them from the commencement of the treaty they wanted till fall & I believe they will have it yet. I have no idea that they will ever pretend to fight any more but they are slow about coming in and will have their own time about getting away for it would be impossible to force them in at this Season of the year The country is remarkably warm and sickly they die daily more or less about the Bay our situation is more healthy we are three miles up the Hillsborouh from the fort at a tolerable good Spring for this country we have lost eight men by sickness out of this Batalion Capt. John Smith was one of that number he died on the 22nd April in the hospital after an illness of three months & some days & on the 2-May an election took place to fill the vacancy I was promoted to the honourable office after a third ballotting George Peters was my worthy opponent We were tied the two first ballotings in the morning it was then postponed till evening at which time I got a majority of one vote. We have sent home about eighty men from the Battalion who were in a delicate state of health but there are more falling every day. I am in perfect good health myself I hope this may find you with all the friends enjoying the like blessing my respects to all.those who may honour me with an inquiry.

Wm B. Hunt

PS, write to me at this place it is uncertain when we will leave

Tampa Fa
May 8, 1837

Clinton A. Hunt Esq.
Salem
Franklin County
Tennessee

In camp near Talahassee June 3, 1837

Dear Clinton this is to inform you of my arrival we landed at this place on yesterday evening left Tampa 22nd May making it in ten days 311 miles with a train of waggon we are ordered to Fort Mitchell Ala. to be under the comd. of Gov. Clay. We will leave this again in the morning & make Fort Mitchell in Eight days I wish we may have orders to march home by the time we arrive at that place if So we will be at home the 1st July. I have lost my horse but will never grumble nor ask for help as long as I am able to travel there are not more than Eighty mounted men in the Battalion, I am in good health my Self but it is not a general thing give my respects to all the friends I have not recd a letter from any of my friends since Dec. 1836 & have wrote a great many

C A Hunt & All friends

Wm B. Hunt Capt
Comd cap Ala. Vol.

TALLAHASSEE

June 4
1837
FLA.

Clinton A. Hunt Esq
Salem
Franklin County
W. Tenn.

Alabama Jackson Cty. 17 Nov. 1839

Honoured mother I take the opportunity of informing you of my own and Clintons health I landed over safe the day I started and Clinton the wednesday following, we are both at the river at this time and Clinton still keeps mending every day and I am able to gow hard at work I expect to stay with Clinton till Christmas and then I will return perhaps to stay. I have just came from the cove and they are all well. as for business we are getting along tolerably well we have not got our jin completed yet give my compliments to all friends to Miss Fanny in perticular I have nothing more but remain your loving Son W. B. Hunt

Maj. David Hunt
Franklin Cty.
W. Tennessee
Salem

THE POOR IN PROVINCIAL ALABAMA

by Glenn Sisk

The Alabama Black Belt is a region of ten counties in the prairie land west of Montgomery. It was once a thriving cotton plantation area and had a heavy Negro population.

This paper is concerned with the status of the poor in the Black Belt counties during the years between Reconstruction and World War I. In other plantation areas of the South the treatment of the poor may have been very much the same.

The county was responsible for the support of paupers. Two systems were used. People listed as paupers were given monthly allowances, usually very small, for their support. This was called "outdoor relief".¹ Allowances were frequently granted to people who had assumed the responsibility of looking after paupers. The other system was support in a poorhouse, sometimes known as "indoor relief."

Of the sixty-seven Alabama counties nine had no poorhouses in 1918. Lowndes was the only Black Belt county without one.² Poorhouses were usually leased to private individuals who agreed to look after the inmates at a certain sum per person.³ Bids were received from those interested in keeping the poorhouse, and the lowest bid was expected to be accepted. Four to eight dollars a month per pauper in the earlier years and seven to twelve dollars and fifty cents in the later years of the period were typical amounts awarded for the paupers. Sometimes the poorhouse keeper received a small fixed salary instead of a fixed sum per pauper.⁴

The reports on almshouses were seldom flattering. The 1901 report stated the case thus:

In many instances the Boards of County Commissioners let the paupers out to the lowest bidder, and in the majority of instances these bids are very low and are insufficient for the proper care and attention of these unfortunates. The majority of the paupers of our state are either mentally unbalanced, or physically disabled, and it is necessary that they at all times have more or less attention, and with the low bid at which they are taken, it is impossible to give them this, hence they get very little attention, and in many cases actually suffer.

In many cases I am impressed with the idea that the alms houses are maintained for the purpose of having a place of banishment, so to speak, a quiet, secluded spot to carry those unfortunates to die.⁵

The grand jury made regular inspections of the poorhouse, and a physician, usually the county health officer was appointed to look after the health of the inmates.⁶ From five to fifty paupers might be found in a poorhouse in the rural counties, although generally there were not very many.⁷ Poverty was not a popular calling.

Allowances to paupers in counties which did not have poorhouses were made either in small amounts of cash or in commodities.⁸ Allowances for coffins and for burial of paupers were usually \$2.50 to \$51.00.⁹ Thirty-one paupers cost Lowndes County \$2,785.02 in 1883-1884, eighty-nine dollars per person, on a basis of outdoor relief.¹⁰ Once a poorhouse was established, relief outside the poorhouse was generally refused.¹¹

NOTES

¹ Hale County, Alabama, Transcripts, Commissioners' Court Minutes, 1880-1905, Copy page no. 579, Record page no. 347, February 9, 1880; "Extract from the Code of Alabama" in *Report of the State Prison Inspector*, 1916, pp. 254, ff.

² *Report of the State Prison Inspector*, 1918, pp. 54 ff.

³ Sumter County, Alabama, Commissioners' Court Minutes, November 5, 1873, vol. 4, p. 33; Perry County, Alabama, Commissioners' Court Minutes, April 5, 1873, vol. 4, p. 33; Perry County, Alabama, Commissioners' Court Minutes, April 5, 1881, vol. B, p. 294.

⁴ Greene County, Alabama, Minutes, Court of County Commissioners, February term, 1899, vol. G, p. 656; Bullock County, Alabama, Minutes, Commissioners' Court, May 10, 1911, vol. 3, p. 493; *ibid.*, December 19, 1916, vol. 4, p. 33.

⁵ State of Alabama, First Annual Report of the Department for the Inspection of Jails and Alms Houses, 1909 (Montgomery: 1910), pp. 23-24.

⁶ Hale County, Alabama, Minutes, Commissioners' Court, August 28, 1912, vol. D, p. 280; Greene County, Minutes, Court of County Commissioners, August term, 1891, vol. G, p. 149.

⁷ Greene County, Alabama, Minutes, Court of County Commissioners, August, 1891, vol. G, p. 149; Hale County, Alabama, December 11, 1882, copy p. 736-738, record p. 443-444.

⁸ Lowndes County, Alabama, Claims and Minutes, Board of Revenue Court, November 8, 1909, vol. C, p. 61; Wilcox County, Alabama, Commissioners' Court Minutes, 1890-1908, February, 1890, p. 5.

⁹ Sumter County, Alabama, Commissioners' Court Minutes, February 10, 1902, vol. 6, p. 17; Bullock County, Minutes, Commissioners' Court, vol. 3, p. 402; Perry County, Alabama, Commissioners' Court Docket, November 12, 1884, vol. C, p. 22.

¹⁰ *Report of the Board of Health of the State of Alabama, 1813-84* (Montgomery: 1884), p. 243.

¹¹ Bullock County, Alabama, Minutes, Commissioners' Court, vol. 3, p. 189.

REPUBLICANISM IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA, 1952-1958

By Allen Woodrow Jones

Furman University, Greenville, S. C.

In order to understand the operation and development of Republicanism in Jefferson County from 1952 to 1958, it is necessary to survey some characteristics of this area. Jefferson County, located in the north central portion of Alabama, represents the most industrialized section of the state. The county encompasses some 1,118 square miles, making it the sixth largest county in area in Alabama, according to the 1950 census, Jefferson County leads the state in population with a total of 558,929. One important factor about this population is its concentration. The 1950 census reflects 80.3 per cent of the county's population as urban. This urban population is centered in Birmingham, the largest city in the state. The 1950 census shows Jefferson County's population with the highest median income of any county in the state and second in median school years completed. The presence of a small non-white population, 5.9 per cent, should be considered in a study of the county's politics.¹

Jefferson County is "traditionally Democratic." Since the period of Reconstruction, one-party politics has dominated the county. The stigmatism of Reconstruction gave such solidarity to the Democratic Party that in only two instances prior to 1948 have Republicans carried the county. In 1894 Truman H. Aldrich, a Republican, successfully contested his seat in Congress against Oscar W. Underwood. In 1928, opposition to Al Smith's Catholicism, prohibition views, and his association with Tammany Hall, coupled with the prosperity of the Republicans administrations, served to override traditional voting patterns in Jefferson County by giving Herbert Hoover 51.9 per cent of the votes.²

It is only in the last decade that Jefferson County Republicans have made a serious effort to challenge the Democrats for municipal and

¹ *Census of Population: 1950, Alabama*, (Washington, 1952), II, 9, 28-29, 85-88. It should be noted that the population of Jefferson County has increased steadily since 1950.

² Malcolm C. McMillan, *Constitutional Development in Alabama, 1798-1901: A Study in Politics, the Negro, and Sectionalism*, (Chapel Hill, 1955), 220-221. William Cash, "The Republican Party in Alabama Since Reconstruction," (unpublished M.A. thesis, Mississippi State College, 1957), 108-110.

county offices. In the period prior to 1948 the Jefferson County Republican Party infrequently offered candidates for the offices of State Senator, State Representative, Circuit Judge, and United States Representative. These Republican candidates received an average of about five per cent of the total vote.³ Perhaps these local candidates were only seeking to please the national Republican Party and justify a future patronage position.

During the period from 1920 to 1950 the Jefferson County Republican strength shows a confusing pattern in state and national elections. While the Republican candidates for state offices polled only an average of 4.7 percent of the total county vote, the Republican presidential vote in the county averaged 15 percent of the total vote.⁴ The variances make it difficult to analyse the true strength of the Republican Party in Jefferson County. Perhaps the presidential vote reflects what V. O. Key calls "presidential Republicans."⁵ The vote for state candidates probably represents something of an apathetic vote, consistent with the interest expected in a party which experienced "twenty lean patronage years"—from 1932 to 1952.

In 1944 the Jefferson County Republicans were given their first hope since 1928 for building a stronger party when a group of disgruntled Democrats made preparations for holding a Third Party Convention in Birmingham. The "Big Mules" in Jefferson County who were Republicans in national affairs urged the "unhappy" Democrats to dismiss the plan for a Third Party and vote the Republican ticket.⁶ The results of the 1944 November election indicate that some of the discontented Democrats in the county took the advice of the "Big Mules."⁷

³ *Alabama Official and Statistical Register*, 1923, 1927, 1931, 1935, 1939, 1943, and 1951, *passim*.

⁴ The statistics concerning the presidential vote do not include the 1928 election, and the statistics concerning the state candidates do not include the 1930 election. For the vote of Jefferson County for Governor and presidential electors from 1920 to 1950 see Appendices A and B.

⁵ "Presidential Republicans" are described as those who vote "in Democratic primaries to have a voice in state and local matters, but when the presidential election rolls around they cast a ballot for the Republican presidential nominee. Locally he is a Democrat; nationally, a Republican." V. O. Key, Jr., *Southern Politics in State and Nation*, (New York, 1950), 278.

⁶ *Montgomery Advertiser*, August 3, 1944.

⁷ *Alabama Official and Statistical Register*, 1947, 462.

By 1948 the dissatisfied Alabama Democrats succeeded in gaining the necessary control to bolt the National Party. This revolt of state's rights Democrats brought the Jefferson County Republicans into action. For the first time in twenty years the Republican County Convention selected a slate of candidates to oppose the Democrats.⁸ The Republican county candidates were optimistic by the cleavage that had developed between the state Democrats and the National Party. Having broken the blind fidelity to the National Party, Republican candidates made determined efforts to proselyte unstable Democrats. While the November election returns gave the Democrats their usual victory, the Republicans were encouraged by their increased following shown by the county results. Although the Republican presidential electors received 148 votes less than they had received in 1944, the state and county Republicans showed a 100 per cent increase over the vote given previous state Republican candidates.⁹

In 1950 the Alabama Republicans showed a sign of weakness when the nominating committee recommended that the party put out no state ticket. The recommendation was rejected, and the state convention selected an incomplete state ticket for the November race.¹⁰ The *Birmingham News*, a Democratic newspaper, criticized the Republican nominating committee for advancing a proposal to prevent the selection of state Republican candidates:

Alabama Republicans will never build up more support in Alabama if they do not put out state tickets. What if they do not expect to win? Does their organization exist only for victory, or spoils, or for promotion of a principle? It is good propaganda and sound educational practice for a party to put up a show even when there is no chance of success.¹¹

The Republican state candidates received a meager vote in Jefferson County in 1950. A leading Republican spokesman in Jefferson County attributed the decline in Republican strength "to the fact that

⁸ The Republicans nominated candidates for the offices of Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, County Treasurer, Circuit Court Judge No. 3, and County Commission President. *Birmingham News*, November 3, 1948.

⁹ *Alabama Official and Statistical Register*, 1951, 474, 478, 486, 493, 492. *Birmingham News*, November 3, 15, 1948.

¹⁰ The Republicans offered opposition for only five state offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture.

¹¹ *Birmingham News*, June 10, 1950.

the party has been out of power nationally since 1933 and there has been no Republican patronage . . . in all these years." Other Republican leaders felt the poor showing in 1950 was a result of weak precinct organization, a lack of financial support, and failure of presidential Republicans to support state and local candidates.¹²

Shortly after the 1950 state election, the National Republican Party Committee turned its eyes to the South. The national party realized that Alabama's swing to the State Rights Party in 1948 left the state ripe for a swing away from its allegiance to the National Democratic Party. The Republicans felt that with a lot of hard work—doorbell ringing and card filing work at the precinct level—they would be able to win a large portion of the former Dixiecrat strength.¹³

In cooperation with the new Southern policy of the National Republican Party three influential Alabama Republicans, Curtis Adkins, Claude O. Vardaman, and Oscar Drake, announced that they intended to make the "party a real working force in the state." These men indiscreetly pointed out that they were "not working for patronage," and that "they were not 'four year Republicans'."¹⁴

As early as 1951 the contest was opened for Alabama delegates to the National Republican Convention in 1952. On November 6, 1951, Senator Robert A. Taft addressed a statewide Republican luncheon rally in Birmingham. Mr. Taft maintained that he was sympathetic to the Southern problems and was a firm believer in state rights. He appealed to former Dixiecrat supporters by stressing his opposition to President Truman's F.E.P.C. legislation.¹⁵ Mr. Taft's visit was followed by two representatives sent by Harold Stassen to "feel the pulse" of the Alabama Republicans and present his political views. For the first time in twenty years presidential aspirants were interested in Democratic Alabama.¹⁶

In the latter months of 1951 when presidential politics began to show its head in Jefferson County, the Negro Republicans in Birmingham made an attempt to organize. E. S. Ammons, a retired railroad

¹² Birmingham *Post-Herald*, December 11, 1950. *Montgomery Advertiser*, November 19, 1950.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Birmingham *News*, November 6, 1951. *Montgomery Advertiser*, November 11, 1951.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, November 18, 1951.

worker, and James C. Johnson, a school teacher at Parker Veterans Institute, issued a call for the organizations first meeting. An invitation to attend the meeting at the Masonic Temple in Birmingham was extended to "all citizens who call themselves Republicans after the Abraham Lincoln pattern." The purpose of the meeting was to "set up a permanent organization . . . to be further expanded throughout the state to assist in furthering the candidacy of the GOP aspirant favorable to and who will work for legal equality for all the people." The meeting was a miscarriage, and it failed to stimulate any interest in Negro Republicanism.¹⁷

In February, 1952, Guy Gabrielson, the Republican National Committee Chairman, attended a big Lincoln Day luncheon rally in Birmingham. His obvious purpose was to capitalize on Democratic discontent as much of his audience was composed of "rebellious Democrats with leanings toward Eisenhower and Taft." In a bid for the support of Dixiecrats and other disgruntled Democrats, Gabrielson urged all Southerners to forget sectional differences and join the Republican Party.¹⁸

Immediately after Eisenhower announced his availability for the Republican presidential nomination, a strong movement was initiated in Alabama to boost his preconvention strength. The *Montgomery Advertiser* advised the Republicans that Taft was a "luxury" the party could not afford.¹⁹ Mell Trammell began organizing "Ike" Clubs in Jefferson County and in other areas of the state.²⁰

By May, 1952, the Alabama Republicans had been split into the Eisenhower faction and the Taft faction. The party disagreements became apparent in the Jefferson County Republican Convention which was held in Birmingham on May 8, 1952. The convention opened with the Taft forces in control and throughout the meeting they "acted as engineers, conductor, and ticket agents of the railroad which plowed through the Ike boys."²¹

Cecil Holliman, a Birmingham delegate to the convention, was chairman of a five-member sub-committee which had the convention

¹⁷ Birmingham News, October 10, 1951.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Febraury 10, 1952.

¹⁹ *Montgomery Advertiser*, December 20, 1951.

²⁰ Birmingham News, March 3, 1952.

²¹ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, May 9, 1952

machinery "well oiled" for Taft. He read a list of county delegates and temporary officers to the convention. Hobart Grooms and Hiram Dodd, both Birmingham lawyers and Eisenhower supporters, protested. They insisted on a roll call of the delegates. County Chairman, W. L. Longshore, a Birmingham attorney, ignored their request and went ahead with the business.²²

After the reading of the delegates, Barney Trammell, a young enthusiastic "Ike-liker," stated that he had been chosen as a county delegate from Precinct 56 and his name had not been read. At this point Hugh McEniry, County Executive Committee Secretary, announced that Trammell was disqualified to serve as a delegate because he had voted in the recent Democratic primary. Trammell haltingly and reluctantly admitted the deed. Such tactics kept the Taft forces "in the saddle."²³

After the Trammell incident, Owen Love, Dean of the Birmingham Business College and a Taft delegate, was named temporary chairman of the convention. In his keynote address to the county convention Love advised the "Ike-likers" that "the Republican Party was made up of longtime Republicans and newcomers had better hew to the line without trying to take command."²⁴ When Love completed his talk, W. L. Longshore was elected permanent chairman of the convention. Chairman Longshore immediately recognized Hugh McEniry who made a motion to elect forty-nine delegates, whose names he had already prepared, to the district and state conventions. Hiram Dodd objected to these "steam-roller tactics" and recommended to the convention that district and state delegates be nominated by a committee of three from the floor. "This is necessary," Dodd said, "if you're going to have a part in this convention so you won't be just mules driven." Finally, a standing vote on Dodd's motion was taken and the Taft forces prevailed 37 to 27. Hugh McEniry's prepared list of delegates was then adopted. The list was composed primarily of Taft supporters for delegates and Eisenhower men for alternate delegates.²⁵

The county convention chose Victor O. Burks, a Birmingham antique dealer who "leaned to Bob Taft," as national convention delegate, after he emphasized he would go to Chicago with an open mind.

²² Birmingham News, May 9, 1952.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Birmingham Post-Herald, May 9, 1952.

²⁵ Birmingham News, May 9, 1952. Birmingham Post-Herald, May 9, 1952.

Cecil R. Holliman, an "out and out" Taft man, was chosen alternate delegate to the convention.²⁶

Although the "Ike-likers" took a beating at the county convention without becoming unruly, many were heard complaining after the convention adjourned. W. P. Ivey of Wylam, a veteran Republican campaigner who had once run for Congress, spoke critically of "Old Guard Republicans: "This group in charge here denounces the closed shop, but that's what they've got in the Jefferson County Republican organization." Another disappointed "Ike" supporter declared that "they asked for younger fellows to come up here and then don't pay us any attention when we arrive." Another commented: "The fight isn't over yet. We're going to nominate Ike at the Chicago Convention."²⁷

The 1952 county convention exposed the kind of people which made up the Republican Party in Jefferson County. Generally speaking, the Taft supporters were the life-long Republicans of the county who had served the cause for several decades. In many cases these "Old Guard" Republicans were established businessmen or lawyers. The leaders of this faction were accused of being a group of hopeful office seekers who were mainly concerned with the Federal patronage in the state. The "new Republicans," made up mostly of "Ike-likers," gained much of their following from the younger Republicans in the county. Many of them came from upper income families in Birmingham. A number of young lawyers, doctors, dentists, and business executives were extremely active in this new group of Republicans. The "new Republican" faction also included many former state's rights Democrats who had left the home of their fathers.²⁸

At the Republican State Convention in Birmingham on May 29, 1952, a party disagreement over presidential candidates created the most controversial meeting since the conflicts between the "Black and Tans" and "Lily Whites." The convention at first appeared to have unity. State Republican Chairman Claude O. Vardaman of Birmingham, an Eisenhower supporter, opened the meeting by describing the Democrats as "plundering, pusillanimous, plutocrats of the Potomac."²⁹ The unity of

²⁶ Birmingham News, May 9, 1952.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Birmingham News, August 14, 1952. Montgomery Advertiser, October 31, 1952.

²⁹ Birmingham Post-Herald, May 30, 1952.

the convention was disrupted in the selection of the four delegates at large to the Republican National Convention. After hours of confusion, Mrs. Percy Pitts, a Taft supporter, was selected in lieu of Oscar Drake, an Eisenhower backer. The fourteen National Republican Convention delegates approved by the State Convention included nine Taft supporters and five Eisenhower supporters. The State Convention ended on a note of bitterness with the "Ike-likers" pronouncing themselves the real advocates of a two-party system for Alabama and accusing the Taft supporters of only wanting the spoils of patronage.³⁰

A study of the period just before Eisenhower was nominated helps to identify and classify many Alabamians who promoted Eisenhower's candidacy. A large number of respected and responsible Alabama Democrats openly espoused his cause. Some agreed to vote Republican only if Eisenhower was nominated, but a surprisingly large number of lifelong Democrats publicly avowed that they would vote Republican no matter who was nominated. The *Montgomery Advertiser* explained this change of political "horses" as the desire to "clean out the Democratic Party." "Many Democrats," said the *Advertiser*, "especially those not clinging to the federal breast, fear that cancerous growth of government is inevitable under long rule by a single set of rascals."³¹ Some emphasis should be placed on the splendid reputation and personal popularity, which Dwight Eisenhower possessed, as a factor influencing support.

After Eisenhower was nominated by the National Party, the Alabama Republicans patched up their differences in an effort to present a solid front for the campaign. The campaign in Alabama was centered in Birmingham, and from there the Republican organization covered the state. A "long-time Ike plumper," Claude O. Vardaman of Birmingham, was named Eisenhower's Alabama campaign chairman.³² In August, 1952, Mrs. Roy Wates of Birmingham was named chairman of the women's division of the campaign for Eisenhower in Alabama. Mrs. Wates organized activities for women in every age group—"Grandmothers for Eisenhower," "Mothers for Eisenhower," "First Voters for Eisenhower," and "Teen Agers for Eisenhower."³³ The Eisenhower campaign received

³⁰ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, May 30, 1952. *Montgomery Advertiser*, May 30, 1952.

³¹ *Montgomery Advertiser*, July 13, 1952.

³² Birmingham *News*, July 20, 1952.

³³ *Ibid.*, August 26, 1952.

a major boost when the two daily newspapers in Birmingham—the *News* and the *Post-Herald*—endorsed Eisenhower's candidacy.³⁴

Much of the Republican fund-raising activity in behalf of the Eisenhower campaign was conducted in Jefferson County. H. H. Grooms of Birmingham was selected as Fund Drive Chairman for the state. Grooms said that taxes were high because of Democratic policies, and he encouraged contributions to a campaign pledged to lower taxes. Liberal donations were received from "Citizens for Eisenhower" groups. The majority of Alabama contributions were small and the contributors were mostly doctors, dentists, druggists, lawyers, and businessmen. The Republican contributions list included numerous Democratic officeholders who stated "I give you my money gladly, but don't use my name."³⁵

The Republican campaign in Jefferson County was highlighted by General Eisenhower's appearance in Birmingham on September 3, 1952. This brought national headlines because Eisenhower was the first presidential nominee of a major party to come to Alabama campaigning in the last half century. The event attracted Republicans from all parts of Alabama.³⁶ Birmingham rolled out the "red carpet" for the distinguished guest. The Democratic City Council made it officially "Eisenhower Day" and the Mayor, W. C. Green, a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, gave the Republican candidate a gold key to the city.³⁷ The City Commission declared a two-hour holiday for city employees in order that they might hear Eisenhower's speech. Several industrial and business concerns, including Alabama Power Company, Alabama Gas Company, and Birmingham Electric Company gave their employees a "long lunch hour" to enable them to see and hear the famous general.³⁸

The Republican candidate spoke from the steps of the Birmingham City Hall to a crowd estimated at 25,000 people. Donald Comer, a Birmingham industrialist and state rights leader, introduced Eisenhower to the crowd with the declaration that "the time and the man have met." The Birmingham states righter added: "We want a change from Trumanism, from corruption and from insolvency. We want to change to

³⁴ *Montgomery Advertiser*, July 13, 1952. *Birmingham News*, August 1, 1952.

³⁵ *Birmingham News*, August 14, October 31, 1952. *Montgomery Advertiser*, July 13, 1952.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, September 3, 1952.

³⁷ *New York Times*, September 4, 1952.

³⁸ *Birmingham News*, September 3, 1952.

Eisenhower and decency." Eisenhower told the cheering thousands that the November election constituted "an emergency decision" for every voter and asserted that the outpouring of people on his trip to the South demonstrated to him that the people were interested in issues and facts "and not just the (party) label a man wears on his collar." The crowd applauded wildly as Eisenhower condemned "corruption in government" and said he wanted to clean up the "mess in Washington."³⁹

In September, 1952, the Republican district and county conventions of Jefferson County met in Birmingham and decided against opposition to ninth district Congressman, Laurie Battle, and other Democratic nominees in the county. This action was to make it easier for Democrats to cast their ballots for Eisenhower. With no other Republican candidates on the ballot, it was not necessary for any voter in Jefferson County to split the ticket to vote for Eisenhower.⁴⁰ This decision by the Jefferson County Republicans was in line with Republican state campaign chairman Claude O. Vardaman's policy of an "open door" for Eisenhower Democrats.⁴¹

The election held on November 4, 1952, brought victory to the National Republican Party. Not only was a Republican back in the White House for the first time in twenty years, but the "Solid South" had been cracked for the first time since 1928. The *Christian Science Monitor* reported that the election made the term "Solid South" as obsolete as "Dixiecrat," and that it was no longer considered a business handicap to be a Republican in Alabama.⁴²

In the 1952 election in Alabama the Republicans got 35 percent of the presidential vote, and the Democrats were held to their lowest victory margin in twenty-four years.⁴³ The large Republican vote cast in Jefferson County, 45.2 percent, gave support to the rapidly growing Republican organization in the county.⁴⁴ The large increase in Republican voting in Jefferson County, as well as in Mobile and Montgomery Counties—the three counties which lead the state in urban population—

³⁹ New York Times, September 4, 1952. Birmingham News, September 3, 1952.

⁴⁰ Birmingham News, September 11, 1952.

⁴¹ Montgomery Advertiser, July 13, 1952.

⁴² Boston Christian Science Monitor, November 11, 1952.

⁴³ Cash, *op. cit.*, 136.

⁴⁴ Alabama Official and Statistical Register, 1955, 514.

indicates that the urban voters in Alabama were most eager to put an end to the long period of Democratic superiority. An analysis of the Jefferson County vote will indicate what type people voted for Eisenhower in 1952.

There were three Jefferson County precincts which gave the Republican presidential nominee an overwhelming majority of the votes. Precinct 59, which encompasses the area of Mountain Brook, Alabama, gave Eisenhower 2,996 votes to 755 for Stevenson. The city of Mountain Brook is a suburb of Birmingham which is the most exclusive area in Jefferson County. The 8,359 population of the city leads the state with a median income of \$6,900 and with median school years completed. The area has only 3.3 per cent Negro population. Precinct 25, Homewood, Alabama, is another exclusive section "over the mountain" from Birmingham. This precinct turned in the county's second highest Republican vote with 2,783 votes for Eisenhower and 957 votes for Stevenson. Homewood's population of 12,866 has the state's second highest median income with \$4,687. This city has only 17.4 per cent Negro population. In Precinct 21, which is defined as part of Birmingham City, the vote was 3,199 for Eisenhower and 1,930 for Stevenson. The Democrats received their strongest support in the industrial areas of Bessemer and Fairfield where the employees of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company reside. Bessemer, with a median income of \$2,112, gave the Democrats a majority of 1,361 to 894, while Fairfield, with a median income of \$2,445, supported the Democratic nominee with a vote of 995 to 486. The small electorate in this industrial area can be contributed in part to the large Negro population. Bessemer has 60.7 per cent of its population Negro, and Fairfield has 60.1 per cent of its population Negro. Precinct 42, an industrial area located on the north side of Birmingham, gave the Democrats 1,314 votes to 513 votes for the Republicans. Precinct 11, which includes Inglenook and a part of Tarrant and houses many industries, cast 904 votes for Stevenson and 421 votes for Eisenhower. Pratt City, an area dominated by Negroes and described by the executive assistant to the Sheriff of Jefferson County as "the dirtiest section of Birmingham," cast its vote for Stevenson almost five to one. The one voting box in Birmingham where all voters were Negroes gave the Democrats a majority of 256 to 64.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ *Official Election Returns of Jefferson County for 1952*, Sheriff's Office in Birmingham, Alabama. *Census of Population: 1950*, Alabama, II, 28-29. Donald S. Strong, *The 1952 Presidential Election in the South*, (University, Alabama, 1955), 343-347. Conversation with Raymond Belcher, executive assistant to the Sheriff of Jefferson County. *Birmingham News*, November 55, 1952.

The hardhitting campaign conducted by the Republican vote there since 1928. The election revealed that the two-party campaigning in Jefferson County brought out the voters. A total of 70,806 votes were cast in the county. This was 15,301 more votes than were cast in the May, 1950 Democratic primary for governor. This increased voter participation indicates that a two-party politics in Jefferson County would probably increase the size of the electorate and thereby give more meaning to the politics in the county.⁴⁶

Several days following the election Governor Gordon Persons attempted to throw cold water on the Republican showing in Alabama:

It wasn't a Republican victory at all. It was strictly an Eisenhower victory, a tribute to his personal popularity. The next Republican who runs in Alabama will find out awful fast that his name is not Eisenhower.⁴⁷

Mell Trammell, president of the Alabama for Eisenhower Clubs, agreed with the governor, but he pointed out that Eisenhower's vote in Alabama was enough to start the fires burning under two-party plans.⁴⁸

The Republican leaders in Jefferson County were encouraged over Eisenhower's support in the election, and Claude O. Vardaman urged a "follow-up" campaign to hold the recently made gains. The first move in this direction was taken by the Young Republicans of Jefferson County who held a meeting on November 24, 1952, at the courthouse in Birmingham. The meeting emphasized the need for a better local two-party system which must include the participation of "young Americans." The club announced its objective was to train young people as effective workers for the election of Republican Party nominees.⁴⁹

Although the Republicans in Jefferson County appeared unified in the 1952 election, the Taft-Eisenhower feud erupted anew within a month following the election. The "Old Guard"—Eisenhower Republican battle centered in Birmingham. The "new look Republicans" criticized the "pie organization" which had formerly controlled the party and had backed Taft. In early December, 1952, at an Eisenhower Republican Club meeting, William P. Ivey, a Fairfield businessman, declared that

⁴⁶ *Alabama Official and Statistical Register*, 1951, 528. *Official Election Returns of Jefferson County for 1952*.

⁴⁷ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 6, 1952.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Birmingham News*, November 9, 25, 1952.

"never again will a clique in our party hold in contempt the will of the majority of this party." The chief business of the club meeting was concerned with whether the Republicans should offer candidates to battle the Democrats for the three City Commission jobs in 1953. Hiram Dodd, the public relations director for the new Eisenhower forces, stated that the ills of the Birmingham City government were because of the lack of an effective two-party system. During the meeting a resolution was adopted favoring "a Republican candidate for every office in every election."⁵⁰

On February 3, 1953, the Jefferson County Republican Executive Committee met in Birmingham to decide if the party should offer candidates for the City Commission race. Two Republican party factions became apparent when Claude O. Vardaman offered a resolution for a Republican municipal primary. The "Old Guard" faction, led by Hugh McEniry and Victor Burks, opposed such a move. They objected to the primary plan because of a fear that the party would "make a flop of it." The Eisenhower Republicans, led by Claude O. Vardaman, Hobart Grooms, Paul G. Parsons, Hiram Dodd, and H. E. Archer, insisted on a primary election. Dodd argued that "primaries are the most democratic way to give the people a chance to express themselves and the proper way to get the issues before the people." In answer to the "Old Guard" group, Hobart Grooms declared: "We're not afraid of defeat; we've been defeated before." H. E. Archer, an engineer and county committee member, rapped the "iron door" policies of what he termed the "Old Guard control" of the Republican organization. "Let's have a primary," he said. "We're like a baseball team in the cellar. We've got only one way to go—that's up." After listening to the arguments, County Committee Chairman W. L. Longshore, an old Taft supporter, expressed himself rather conservatively in favor of holding a primary. He said, "We won't know what advantages or disadvantages there are to primaries until we try them." With the approval of Chairman Longshore, a resolution was passed to hold a Republican municipal primary in Birmingham on May 5, 1953, the same day of the Democratic primary. The resolution stated that "candidates who enter the Republican primary must be qualified voters and must agree in writing that they believe in and support the principles of the Republican Party." All candidates were required to pay a \$25.00 qualifying fee. Liberal party rules were established to allow voters to participate in the Republican primary. The only requirement

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, December 9, 1952.

was to say they believed in and would support the principles of the Republican Party.⁵¹

On February 18, 1953, an Eisenhower Republican Club rally was held at the courthouse in Birmingham. The meeting opened by making new attacks against "Old Guard domination," and then the meeting picked the first GOPers ever to see nomination by primary election to the three city commission posts. Van A. Pierce, a 55 year old salesman for an oil company, was chosen to run for mayor or commission president. Perry O. Hooper, a 28 year old Birmingham attorney, and Dan Thompson, a 26 year old salesman for an accounting system company, were picked to run for associate commissioners.⁵²

The Republican "Old Guard" was quick to offer opposition. Victor Burks qualified for the mayor's post, and George V. Williams and Cecil B. Holliman announced they would seek the Republican nomination for the posts of associate commissioner. The month of April, 1953, was one of a "red hot" campaign between the candidates of the two factions in the Republican Party. The campaign became so intense that Mrs. Lonnie Noojin Sr., widow of the late Alabama Republican National Committeeman, wrote a letter of protest to the State Republican Executive Committee declaring that "the spectacle of the minority party having two sets of Republican candidates for City Commission in Birmingham . . . is throwing the whole state into an uproar." Mrs. Noojin even threatened to carry the fight between "Eisenhower Republicans" and "Old Guard" forces to the Republican committee of the National party and to the President if necessary.⁵³

The results of the Republican primary gave the Eisenhower Republicans, Pierce, Hooper, and Thompson, a decisive victory. The real surprise of the election was the poor showing of the Republicans. They had a total vote in their primary of 1,068, while the Democratic primary held at the same time polled 22,064 votes. The Republicans suggested

⁵¹ Birmingham News, February 4, 1953. The laws of Alabama which regulate primary elections allow any political party to hold a primary election if this party polled more than twenty per cent of the entire vote cast in the last general election in the state or the county. Primary elections, however, are not compulsory. The law provides that the expenses for all municipal primary elections "shall be paid for out of the treasury of such municipality." *General Acts of the Legislature of Alabama*, 1931, pp. 73-75.

⁵² Birmingham News, February 19, 1953.

⁵³ Birmingham News, April 17, 1953.

that the rain, which fell in the afternoon, probably held down their vote. A few complaints were registered by some of the voters who resented being asked by voting machine attendants whether they were going to vote Republican or Democratic. The election officials assured the voters that this procedure was absolutely necessary because the voting machines had to be "set" to keep voters from casting ballots in both the Republican and Democratic primaries. Perhaps this procedure had some influence on how people cast their vote.⁵⁴

During the campaign of the city commission election, both factions of the Republicans held a political rally at the courthouse in Birmingham. The rally endorsed the two-year poll tax amendment and blasted those Democratic leaders who opposed it. Several speakers at the rally not only urged ratification of the amendment to soften cumulative requirements of the voting levy, but they adopted a resolution calling for outright repeal of the poll tax. Candidate Pierce condemned the Republican national headquarters for ignoring the Republican effort in the city commission race. "It would have been a wise investment," he said, "if only for the publicity value, if the Republican headquarters had seen fit to send us some campaign funds."⁵⁵

The election for city commissioners was held on October 12, 1953 and the Democrats easily repulsed this first Republican attempt to capture the three city posts. Compared to the Republican primary, the Republican candidates did well, as they almost doubled their May ballot total. But compared to the total vote, the Republicans did poorly, as they received about one-third of the ballots cast. The extremely small vote cast—7,085—in the election tends to prove that the Democratic primary in Alabama is tantamount to election.⁵⁶ The *Birmingham Post-Herald* commented that the Republicans "just don't have it yet in Birmingham when it comes to voting for anyone other than Eisenhower."⁵⁷ The Republican candidate for mayor admitted that he was disappointed over the light vote cast in the election, but he added that "we've made a start toward establishing a two-party system in Birmingham, and we're going to continue to work for a two-party voice in our municipal affairs."⁵⁸

⁵⁴ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, May 6, 7, 1953.

⁵⁵ *Birmingham News*, October 9, 1953.

⁵⁶ *Birmingham News*, October 13, 14, 1953.

⁵⁷ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, October 13, 1953.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, October 14, 1953. *Birmingham News*, October 13, 1953.

During 1953 the Republicans on the state level continued their efforts to build up the party. Many Republican leaders felt that a state primary was necessary to bring the Alabama Republican candidates closer to the people. Chairman Vardaman advocated a wide-open primary for "voters who believe in the principles of the Republican party and endorse its policies."⁵⁹ The state party was inspired by a statement from the National Republican Committee that "the South is the happy hunting grounds for permanent Republican prospects."⁶⁰

In 1954 the Republicans decided to nominate their candidates for state office by a convention rather than by a primary. Some Republicans suggested that a primary would eliminate the secret ballot because a voter would have to openly declare in which party primary he wanted to participate. In view of this, some Republicans felt that a primary would put their candidates at a disadvantage, since the Democratic party had passed a loyalty oath requiring those who participated in a Democratic primary to pledge their support to the primary winner in the general election.⁶¹ One member of the Jefferson County Republican Executive Committee expressed opposition to a Republican primary because he feared the Democrats would vote in the primary election to select the weakest candidate and then vote the Democratic ticket in the general election.⁶² Probably the failure of the municipal primary in Birmingham had the most profound effect on the decision to hold a convention.

The Republican State Convention endorsed twenty-one candidates for the state ticket to be elected in November, 1954. Two of these candidates, Reuben Dollar for State Auditor and Mrs. Michael Putman for Secretary of State, were from Birmingham. Tom Abernethy, a former State's Rights Democrat and past member of the Democratic Executive Committee, was selected by the Republicans to oppose James Folsom in the governor's race.⁶³

In the meantime the Jefferson County Republicans held their convention in Birmingham and decided against nominating candidates for county offices. Owen Love, who presided over the convention, was

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, November 9, 1953.

⁶⁰ *Birmingham News*, November 14, 1953.

⁶¹ *Birmingham News*, February 19, 1958. *Birmingham Post-Herald*, January 10, 1958.

⁶² Cash, *op. cit.*, 122.

⁶³ *Montgomery Advertiser*, October 14, 1954.

the leader behind this decision. He cautioned the convention that it would take a long time, a lots of money, and persons interested in running for officc to prepare for a good race. William Ivey of Wylam, who opposed the resolution, said that the Republicans have "carried on a formal party so long it stinks The time has come to put out a full ticket and nothing less." Claude O. Vardaman assured the convention members that the decision not to offer county opposition was a wise move, and urged a selling job by the delegates "to see that more and more Alabamians know more and more about the Republican Party."⁶⁴

The gubernatorial campaign of 1954 represented the most vigorous Republican campaign for a state office since Reconstruction days. Abernethy repeatedly attacked the Democratic loyalty oath, saying that the "overlords of one-party politics" told the voter how he must vote and that they were trying to put the Alabama voter "behind an iron curtain."⁶⁵ The Republican candidate continuously preached the "need for a two-party system in Alabama." Claude O. Vardaman praised Abernethy's campaign in Jefferson County as doing "more than anything else to get a two-party system started."⁶⁶

The result of the 1954 elections were gratifying to the Republicans. Although Abernethy and the Republican state ticket were defeated, the returns indicated that many Alabama voters were ignoring their past political labels. The vote in Jefferson County, Folsom 28,905 and Abernethy 22,420, was notable in that it was the largest vote Jefferson County had ever given a Republican gubernatorial candidate.⁶⁷ The 43.7 per cent of the Jefferson County vote which Abernethy received was not indicative of Republican strength. Much of Abernethy's vote probably came from the anti-Folsom force in the County. Although Abernethy ran far in advance of his ticket, all Republican candidates showed gains in this election.⁶⁸ Perhaps this indicates that many of the 1952 "presidential Republicans" had decided to become "state Republicans."

⁶⁴ Birmingham News, May 8, 1954.

⁶⁵ Montgomery Advertiser, August 25, 1954.

⁶⁶ Birmingham Post-Herald, September 13, 1954.

⁶⁷ Alabama Official and Statistical Register, 1955, 580.

⁶⁸ The Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor received 36,271. The Democratic nominee for Attorney General got 39,893 votes to the Republicans 10,639. The other state Democratic nominees got an average of about 38,000 votes to their Republican opponents' 11,000. Alabama Official and Statistical Register, 1955, 580-585.

Republican activities in Jefferson County during 1955 and early 1956 were rather inconspicuous. No elections were held in Jefferson County during this period. The Republicans held one big fund raising dinner in Birmingham in May, 1955. Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall spoke to a crowd of about 700 at the \$15-a-plate banquet. Hall told the enthusiastic listeners at the rally that "the GOP intends to devote major attention to Dixie in 1956." "I'm going to be in the South often between now and the 1956 elections," he said, "but in building up the Republican Party in Alabama, we've got to build right down to the precincts."⁶⁹ Another fund-raising dinner was held in Birmingham in January, 1956. The Alabama Republicans "whooped it up at the \$25-a-plate 'Salute to Eisenhower' banquet" as they heard Edward F. Mansure, administrator of the General Services Administration, speak.⁷⁰

Prior to the 1956 State Republican Convention the dispute between the "Old Guard" and the "New Guard" appeared to be a thing of the past. The Eisenhower supporters had emerged triumphant in this feud. The two Alabama "Old Guard" National Committee members resigned their positions and were replaced by pro-Eisenhower supporters.⁷¹ In Jefferson County many of the "Old Guard" Republicans yielded control to their fellow party members who had championed the efforts of Eisenhower in 1952. At a meeting of the Jefferson County Executive Committee in April, 1956, Hugh McEniry resigned as Secretary of the Committee and was replaced by W. L. Longshore Jr., an "Ike-liker." Cecil R. Holliman, who described himself as "an Old Guard Republican" since he was "born into the party," stepped down from his position as chairman of the Ninth District—Jefferson County—Republican Executive Committee. He was replaced by George Witcher, a Birmingham Republican, who had backed Eisenhower. Holliman was given the position of chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Executive Committee when W. L. Longshore resigned to become Assistant District Attorney for North Alabama.⁷²

On May 4, 1956, the Jefferson County Republicans held their county and district conventions in Birmingham. The county convention nom-

⁶⁹ Birmingham *News*, April 24, May 14, 1955. Birmingham *Post-Herald*, May 3, 14, 1955.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, January 21, 1956.

⁷¹ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, January 15, 1955. Birmingham *News*, August 19, 1956.

⁷² *Ibid.*, April 26, 1956.

inated a slate to oppose the Democrats for some of the county offices. The only county candidates picked were Sam L. Mason for Probate Judge, J. W. Raines for County Treasurer, and Anne B. Helms and Gordon Beene for the County Board of Education. The convention demonstrated its confidence by nominating some candidates for justice of the peace and constable.⁷³

The Ninth District—Jefferson County—Convention followed the county convention. The 109 delegates nominated W. L. Longshore Jr., a 30 year old Birmingham attorney, to run against George Huddleston Jr. for Congress in the November election.⁷⁴

After the Republican National Convention renominated Eisenhower and Nixon, the Jefferson County Republicans opened a vigorous campaign for all Republican candidates. A Republican campaign rally was held in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium on October 16, 1956. The rally put emphasis on the formation of a two-party system in the county and in the state. Tom Abernethy and the local Republican candidates served as speakers at the rally. The Republicans featured as their main attraction Miss Jackie Carroll, Jefferson County Maid of Cotton who had been chosen "Miss Republican" of Jefferson County.⁷⁵ The Republicans in Jefferson County initiated a "get-out-the-vote" campaign during the period preceding election day. On November 3, 1956, the "Youth for Eisenhower Club" campaigned in downtown Birmingham and at Legion Field by passing out campaign buttons and eye shields with "I Like Ike" on them. The Republicans also started a "telephone chain"—one person calls another who then calls ten more—for getting out the vote. Mrs. Michael Putman, co-chairman of the Citizens for Eisenhower Club, advertised in Birmingham newspapers a free ride to the polls for any Republican voter.⁷⁶

Several days before the November 6 election, the Republican leaders of Jefferson County predicted they would "come out on top." County Republican chairman Holliman expressed his confidence to a reporter of the *Birmingham News*:

I believe that the Republican Party's campaign is based on logic and truth. And with the tremendous popularity of President Ike, and the very evident weakness of the opposing

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, October 16, 1956.

⁷⁶ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 3, 1956.

candidate, I believe that Jefferson County people will vote overwhelmingly Republican.⁷⁷

One correspondent to the *Birmingham Post-Herald* gives some possible reasons why many Jefferson County voters supported Eisenhower:

I am a reader and a Democrat. But I am for Ike In regard to politics, I have voted Democratic for 45 years. I want to ask for Christian mothers and fathers and all the rest to vote for Ike, for he is a Christian man. He loves us all regardless of which race or color.

A man who has given us prosperity and peace for four years; a man who brought our sons from the battlefields; a man who will give us longer peace than anyone else. Give us a good leader and we won't go wrong.⁷⁸

The Republicans in Jefferson County were elated over the results of the 1956 election. Eisenhower carried the county by a vote of 43,695 to 38,742. The Independent electors received 5,252 votes in the county. If the independent vote had been added to the Democrats total, Stevenson would have carried the county. This Republican presidential victory in Jefferson County was the first such Republican triumph since 1928.⁷⁹

The Republican vote in Jefferson County indicates voting trends which were somewhat different from those shown by the 1952 presidential vote. Indications are that Eisenhower received a majority of the Negro vote in the 1956 county vote. This is evidenced by the count at the heavy Negro voting box at Legion Field which gave 898 votes to Eisenhower and 480 votes to Stevenson.⁸⁰ The Eisenhower voters in this box remained with William L. Longshore Jr., the Republican nominee for Congress, to give him a 743 to 634 lead over Democratic Congressman George Huddleston Jr. As was expected the "over the

⁷⁷ *Birmingham News*, October 28, 1956.

⁷⁸ *Birmingham News*, October 28, 1956.

⁷⁹ *Official Election Returns of Jefferson County for 1956*, Sheriff's Office in Birmingham, Alabama.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* It should be pointed out that the Legion Field box is not composed completely of Negro voters. In June, 1956, the county registrars merged some small white boxes into the Legion Field box. It might be assumed, however, that the Negroes voted a large majority of the votes in this box. It should not be assumed that the Negroes "bloc-voted" for Eisenhower. *Birmingham News*, November 8, 1956. *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 8, 1956.

mountain" voters in Mountain Brook and Homewood went heavily for Eisenhower.⁸¹

The real surprise for the Republicans came from the small farm element in the county. In the farming community of Corner, located in the northwest part of Jefferson County, a tabulation of the votes gave Eisenhower 185 and Stevenson 164. The farmers of Corner switched their votes, however, to give George Huddleston Jr. a 208 to 144 lead over W. L. Longshore Jr.⁸²

The white collar, or middle class working areas, vacillated between "overwhelmingly Eisenhower to just-barely Stevenson." In Huffman, where many white collar workers live, the vote was 763 for Eisenhower and 494 for Stevenson. The Huffman area showed a lot of split-ticket voting because Huddleston was victorious by a vote of 802 to 505. In Norwood, another white collar area, the vote in one box was 267 for Stevenson and 216 for Eisenhower. In another Norwood box, the vote was 197 for Eisenhower to 177 for Stevenson. George Huddleston led in both boxes.⁸³

The industrial workers in Ensley, Pratt City, Bessemer, and Fairfield remained in the Democratic columns as they had done in 1952. The vote in the industrial areas, however, was not solid for Stevenson. Eisenhower showed substantial gains among the labor voters in these areas. For instance, at the YMCA on Pike road in Ensley, Eisenhower took the lead with 117 to 98 votes. In another industrial area, the Pratt City Fire Hall, the vote was for Stevenson, but with the close majority of 285 to 221. The vote for Congressman in the industrial areas gave the Democratic nominee a large majority in all boxes.⁸⁴

Athough the Jefferson County Republicans received the most votes for their presidential candidate, all of the Republican county candidates

⁸¹ *Official Election Returns of Jefferson County for 1956.* Birmingham Post-Herald, November 7, 8, 1956.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ *Official Election Returns of Jefferson County for 1956.*

were defeated except one justice of the peace and one constable.⁸⁵ This indicates that a mass of Jefferson County voters split their ticket. The question of why a large number of voters vote Republican for president and Democratic for local candidates needs some consideration. Obviously many people in Jefferson County were more interested in keeping President Eisenhower in office than they were in electing Republican officials on the state and county level. This might be a result of the Reconstruction stigma which Alabamians have always associated with the Republican Party. Possibly many Jefferson County voters approved the policies enunciated by President Eisenhower, but opposed local government controlled by Republicans. Roy Mayhall, Chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee, minimized the Eisenhower victory in Jefferson County by saying that it was due "to Ike's personal popularity and not to any trend toward the Republican Party." He offered as evidence the continued Democratic supremacy in state and local contest.⁸⁶

While the Democratic Party in Jefferson County retained its control over state and county politics in 1956, there is basis for Alabama Republican Chairman Vardaman's comment that "the long struggle we have been making here . . . for a two-party system is beginning to bear fruits." The five-fold increase in the Republican vote for county candidates indicates that Republicanism in Jefferson County has established roots for a two-party system.⁸⁷ There is some question, however, as to whether the gains made by the Republicans in Jefferson County will remain permanently.

The Jefferson County Republican Party received encouragement from the 1956 election returns, when it was announced that the Republican candidates for justice of the peace and constable in Precinct 25—

⁸⁵ George Huddleston, Jr., defeated W. L. Longshore, Jr., in the race for Congressman from the ninth district by a vote of 56,414 to 29,222. J. P. Meeks defeated S. L. Mason for Probate Judge by a vote of 55,458 to 29,060. J. L. Kirby was elected County Treasurer over J. W. Rains by a vote of 53,921 to 29,664. W. A. Berry and O. G. Greshman defeated Anne B. Helms and Gordon Beene for County Board of Education. *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 8, 1956.

⁸⁷ The Republican county candidates in 1948 received an average vote of 4,476 to their opposition's average of 28,650. In comparing the results of the 1948 county race with that of 1956, it should be noted that there was a great increase in the size of the Jefferson County electorate. *Birmingham News*, November 3, 1948, November 8, 1956.

Homewood, Alabama—had defeated their Democratic opponents. Sidney Keywood, a salesman, won the race for constable against W. O. Haynes by the close vote of 3,814 to 3,789. Veteran Democratic Justice of the Peace Irvine C. Porter, Birmingham attorney, was defeated for reelection by Frank L. Mason, owner of a tool and die plant, by a vote of 3,792 to 3,818. W. L. Longshore Jr. made the statement that the victory was “the first time a Republican candidate has ever been named to any elected office in the county.” He concluded that this Republican triumph was “the foundation of a two party system in Jefferson County,” and that the success of Keywood and Mason would encourage many more Republicans to run for office. The Republican candidates for constable in Precinct 33, Bessemer Cut-off, and Precinct 45, Ensley were decisively defeated.⁸⁸

The last vital feature of the 1956 election relates to the size of the electorate in Jefferson County. The 1956 election total of 87,723 votes in Jefferson County is the largest vote ever recorded for this county. The 1956 vote in Jefferson County exceeded the 1952 record vote by 16,917 votes.⁸⁹ What caused this tremendous increase in the size of the Jefferson County electorate? Perhaps some of the increase can be contributed to the popularity of President Eisenhower. Another possible reason for the increased voting participation in Jefferson County lies with the repeal of the cumulative poll tax requirement. Another paramount reason for the record breaking vote of 1956 was the intense two-party campaigning which occurred in Jefferson County before the November election.

Although Republican leaders in Jefferson County were optimistic over the prospect of a two-party system, the *Birmingham News* warned that follow-up measures were necessary to hold the gains. The newspaper suggested that the Republicans incorporate the primary into their plans for the future.⁹⁰ The *Birmingham Post-Herald* urged that a grass roots organization be effected to consolidate the gains made through Eisenhower’s popularity.⁹¹

After the 1956 election, the Republicans in Jefferson County continued their efforts to build their party in Alabama. A permanent head-

⁸⁸ *Official Election Returns of Jefferson County for 1956*. *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 13, 1956. *Birmingham News*, November 12, 1956.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

⁹⁰ *Birmingham News*, November 9, 1956.

⁹¹ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, November 9, 1956.

quarters was established in Birmingham for the Jefferson County branch of the Republican Party. The headquarters was operated by women volunteers who aided by handling the vast amount of letter writing and telephoning. In January, 1957, the Republican County headquarters announced that they had recruited 2,000 additions to the party's fold since the November election.⁹²

The Jefferson County Young Republicans became extremely active following the 1956 election. The organization held meetings frequently in Birmingham and worked continuously recruiting new members. At a meeting of the club in January, 1957, William D. Murrery, head of the Education Department at Howard College, outlined steps for the members to follow in developing their party: organizational framework in both county and precincts, training programs for workers, adequate finances, party research, and party newspaper or bulletin.⁹³ In March, 1957, the Young Republicans of Alabama held their annual convention in Birmingham and discussed ways for increasing the number of Young Republican Clubs in Alabama.⁹⁴

In February, 1957, the Jefferson County Republicans opened their campaign for Gordon Beene, Birmingham furniture man, who had been nominated for Representative to the state legislature. State Republican Chairman Claude O. Vardaman warned the Democrats that "we're going after this seat." Vardaman declared that the large Republican vote in Jefferson County in recent years entitled the Republicans to at least one seat in the legislature from the county.⁹⁵ On May 7, 1957, the special county election was held and the Republican candidate, Gordon Beene, was defeated by a vote of 22,738 to 6,683. The low vote was a disappointment to the hard working Republicans who had conducted a vigorous campaign for their candidate.⁹⁶

In May, 1957, the Democrats nominated a slate for the Birmingham City Commission race. The Republicans in Birmingham refused to announce their plans for the election until August, 1957. At this time Cecil R. Holliman, County Republican Chairman, told the Birmingham

⁹² Birmingham *News*, January 4, 1957.

⁹³ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, January 9, 1957.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, March 9, 1957.

⁹⁵ Birmingham *News*, February 25, 1957.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, May 8, 1957. Official Election Returns of the Secretary of State for 1957 special election in Jefferson County.

Post-Herald that he had been canvassing for “qualified” candidates, but had been unable to find any who would agree to run. The election for city commissioners was held on October 14, 1957 with the Republicans offering no opposition to the Democrats.⁹⁷

In September, 1957, the Republican Party in Jefferson County suffered a severe setback when President Eisenhower sent Federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas to enforce integration in Central High School. The full effect of the President’s action on Jefferson County Republicanism can not be determined at the present time, although the immediate reaction in the county to the Little Rock crisis indicates that the Republicans have lost much of the gains they had made since 1952. Democratic State Senator Albert Boutwell, a Birmingham attorney, described the effect of the President’s use of troops to a Birmingham *News* reporter.

The very substantial gains Republicans had made in Alabama have been wiped out over night by Eisenhower’s arbitrary, dictatorial and brutal misuse of federal troops. His actions have made certain that Alabama will be more solidly Democratic than ever before.⁹⁸

The Young Republican Club of Jefferson County, numbering approximately 500 members, denounced President Eisenhower’s action and accused him of “playing politics with such an important issue.”⁹⁹ Republican chairman Claude O. Vardaman declined comment on possible effects of the Little Rock issue on the future of Alabama Republicans.¹⁰⁰

Roy D. Mayhall, State Democratic chairman, predicted that Eisenhower had killed the Republican Party in Alabama for at least fifty years. “It’s almost unanimous,” said Mayhall, “that the Democrats who voted for Eisenhower are coming back into the Democratic Party.”¹⁰¹ One “Ike-liker” who wanted to return “home” wrote a humorous letter to the Birmingham *Post-Herald* describing his, and probably many other’s, political recourse:

I was an Eisenhower Democrat,
Then an Eisenhower Republican.

⁹⁷ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, August 1, 1957.

⁹⁸ Birmingham *News*, September 29, 1957.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, September 28, 1957.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, September 29, 1957.

An ardent golfer,
 And I even bought a GM car.
 I began to doubt with Wilson,
 Hung on until Little Rock,
 Began to slide off at Sputnik I,
 And fell off after Sputnik II.
 I'm now a Southern Prodigalincrat.*

*A Southern son who has erred in his ways, having left the party of his father to live the sinful life of a Republican but now would like to return home if the party will have him. There are many of us now with no other choice.¹⁰³

During the months following the Little Rock incident, the Republicans in Jefferson County and in Alabama remained silent. National Republican chairman H. M. Alcorn, Jr., who was scheduled to make a speech in Birmingham on October 31, 1957, cancelled his engagement without giving any reason.¹⁰³

In January, 1958, State Republican chairman Claude O. Vardaman announced that "a full ticket" of candidates would be selected to oppose the Democrats in the November, 1958 state election. Vardaman's announcement was followed by a statement from the Republican State Executive Committee calling for continued segregation "by all legal means." The committee also denounced the Democratic loyalty oath as "political tyranny." The committee's action was an obvious attempt to induce the Alabama Republicans into believing that the party really wanted segregation.¹⁰⁴

On April 11, 1958, Meade Alcorn spoke to a crowd of 300 at a \$25-a-plate dinner in Birmingham. Alcorn expressed approval of Eisenhower's use of troops to force school integration at Little Rock. He admitted that the Little Rock action had interrupted the up-surge of the Republican Party in the South, but said that "the long-range impact of the Little Rock situation was substantially less than I and many others first thought it would be."¹⁰⁵

The Jefferson County Republicans held a joint County-District convention in Birmingham on May 9, 1958. The party decided not to offer

¹⁰³ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, November 9, 1957.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, October 15, 1957.

¹⁰⁴ Birmingham *Post-Herald*, January 10, 30, 1958.

¹⁰⁵ Birmingham *News*, April 12, 1958.

candidates for county offices, but selected nominees for state senator, state representatives, and United States Representative.¹⁰⁶

On May 30, 1958, delegates from almost every county in the State assembled in Birmingham for the Republican State Convention. The platform adopted by the convention included a segregation plank which stated: "We believe in continued preservation of our Southern traditions and the continued separation of the races by all legal means." In voicing his approval to this provision, Claude O. Vardaman, State Republican chairman, said that "everybody in Alabama feels practically the same about the segregation question." Vardaman explained that the use of Federal troops to force school integration at Little Rock was a "temporary setback" to Republicans.¹⁰⁷

The highlight of the convention was the nomination of a full Republican state ticket. William L. Longshore, Jr., a 33 year old Birmingham attorney and the son of a veteran Republican leader, was chosen to head the GOP ticket. He was said to be the youngest gubernatorial candidate the Alabama Republicans had ever nominated. None of the other nominees were from Jefferson County.¹⁰⁸

The Republican campaign in Jefferson County and the State was less vigorous than the 1954 and 1956 campaigns. Although the Republicans preached "peace and prosperity," they were unable to satisfy prospective supporters with their explanations of the national recession and the Federal troops in Little Rock. Just before the election, the state

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, May 9, 1958. *Birmingham Post-Herald*, May 9, 1958. The Ninth Congressional District is composed of Jefferson County. John F. Dyar of Birmingham was nominated for state senator; W. M. Barksdale, Herman E. Dean, Jr., Allen Hill, William P. Ivey, Mrs. Michael Putman, Mrs. John W. Simpson and E. C. Wigington, Jr., were nominated for Representatives to the General Assembly; Frank L. Mason was nominated for Congressman from the Ninth District.

¹⁰⁷ *Birmingham News*, May 31, 1958. *Montgomery Advertiser*, May 31, 1958.

¹⁰⁸ *Birmingham Post-Herald*, May 31, 1958.

press predicted the Republicans would receive most of the Negro vote in spite of the parties pro-segregation stand.¹⁰⁹

When the election took place on November 4, 1958, the Democrats witnessed their usual victory. Although the Democrats in Jefferson County cast a record vote, the combined Democratic-Republican vote was over 5000 votes less than the total county returns for the 1954 state election. In Jefferson County the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, John Patterson, received 38,765 votes to his Republican opponent's 7,897 votes. In comparing the Jefferson County gubernatorial vote of 1958 with that of 1954, the Republicans show a 26.8 per cent loss in the total vote.¹¹⁰

The election results bore true the pre-election predictions about the Negro vote. Voting precincts and boxes with Negro majorities in Birmingham, Montgomery, Mobile and Macon County gave the Republicans the majority vote. In Jefferson County the largest Negro majority box (Precinct 9, Box 1) gave Longshore 507 votes to 313 for Patterson. This box, which is located near Legion Field, reportedly has about 65 per cent Negro voters and 35 per cent white. Another box (Precinct 9, Box 4) with a heavy Negro vote gave Longshore 313 to 272 for Patterson. W. L. Longshore, Jr. explained that he and other GOP candidates

¹⁰⁹ Birmingham *News*, November 1, 1958. The *News* gave several reasons for its belief that the Negro would vote the Republican ticket. John Patterson, the Democratic nominee for Governor, antagonized the Negroes by his crackdown on the NAACP and his efforts to obtain a permanent injunction against the Negro boycott of white merchants in Tuskegee. Patterson's alleged association with the Ku Klux Klan turned many Negroes toward the Republican ranks. The key factor behind the Negro inclination to Republicanism was given to the integration rulings handed down by the United States Supreme Court during a Republican national administration.

¹¹⁰ Official Election Returns for 1958 in Secretary of States Office, Montgomery Alabama. The election returns for Jefferson County show that the Democratic nominees for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer and Commissioner of Agriculture received an average of about 38,000 votes to their Republican opponents average of about 7000. For the offices of state senator and state representatives from Jefferson County the vote was an average of about 36,000 for the Democratic nominees and about 6,000 for the Republican nominees.

“probably got the Negro boxes by default because they had to vote for somebody.”¹¹¹

The Alabama and Jefferson County Republican leaders attributed their decisive defeat in the 1958 election to the lack of a “grass roots party effort.” The *Birmingham News* assured the Alabama Republicans that they would “never get far as long as its ‘club members’ meet like some civic body at a noon luncheon in a downtown hotel ballroom and select candidates.”¹¹²

In a review of Republicanism in Alabama, particularly in Jefferson County, certain conclusions might be drawn. The Democratic solidarity in Jefferson County might be disrupted by the Republican Party nominating a candidate who is extremely popular, or by creating a militant attitude toward a Democratic candidate. The growing interest in two-party politics in Jefferson County, which is seen with the 1952 and 1956 elections, has stimulated participation in voting which is shown by the increased electorate. The voting statistics of Jefferson County since 1952 indicate that Republican politics flourish in higher income areas and in urban areas. The most recent election returns for Jefferson County and Alabama point toward the possible “bloc-voting” of the Negro against the “White Supremacy Democrats.” Jefferson County voters have shown that they sometimes approved of Republicanism in National politics, but they have remained loyal to their Democratic “friends and neighbors” who control local and state politics. As long as this political attitude remains persistent, Jefferson County and Alabama will continue to have a one-party system.

¹¹¹ *Birmingham News*, November 6, 1958.

¹¹² *Birmingham News*, November 6, 1958.

APPENDIX A

The Jefferson County Vote for Democratic and Republican Nominees in the Gubernatorial Elections from 1922 to 1958.

	<i>Democratic nominee</i>	<i>Republican nominee</i>	<i>Republican Candidate percentage of the vote</i>
1922	11,135	424	3.6
1926	7,414	428	5.4
1930	22,333	13,391*	37.4
1934	19,543	695	3.4
1938	12,870	690	5.1
1942	8,827	378	4.1
1946	29,633	2,306	7.2
1950	30,646	1,318	4.1
1954	28,905	22,420	43.7
1958	38,765	7,897	16.9

* Hugh A. Locke, a Democrat who had been excluded from the Democratic primary because he supported Hoover in 1928, opposed B. M. Miller the Democratic nominee for Governor. The Republicans did not nominate a candidate, but gave their support to Locke in this election. The large vote shown for the nominee is a result of the 1928 bolt of the Democratic Party.

APPENDIX B

The Jefferson County Vote for Democratic and Republican Presidential Electors from 1920 to 1956.

	<i>Democrat nominee</i>	<i>nominee Republican</i>	<i>Republican percentage of the vote</i>
1920	24,982	7,124	22.2
1924	15,133	5,678	27.3
1928	16,735	18,060	51.9
1932	30,858	4,564	12.9
1936	35,982	3,813	9.6
1940	37,109	6,717	15.3
1944	31,101	7,409	19.2
1948	30,043*	7,261	19.5
1952	38,127	32,276	45.2
1956	38,742	43,695	51.8

* This figure represents the vote cast for the Dixiecrat candidate for President because no Democratic electors appeared on the ballot in Alabama in 1948.

